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## Item No. 4

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 10, 2009**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Labrecque".

Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** January 26, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Street Closure Permits

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Item 10.4.1 raised at the December 16, 2008 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

#### BACKGROUND

Motion passed requesting a staff report regarding the possibility of having street closure permit applications for street parties reviewed by Halifax Regional Police before being issued to ensure the event is in the best interest of the community. The report is to indicate whether street closure permit applications will be dealt with uniformly throughout HRM.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Engineer for the Municipality has the authority under the Municipal Government Act (Part 12, Section 322) to temporarily close a street for any purpose beneficial to the public interest. Over recent years, the popularity of street parties on residential streets has steadily increased. Staff concur that these events are good for neighborhoods and are in the public interest. Approval has been granted to most requests. In 2008, 41 street party closures were approved.

The process for approval of street parties is uniform for all parts of the HRM core service area. Street closures outside of the core area are administered by the Province. Generally, the Engineer will authorize the closure of residential streets on weekends and holidays, or after 6 p.m. on weekdays. Major arterial and collector streets and bus routes are not normally closed for neighborhood parties. Streets will not be permitted to be closed for yard sales or for profit purposes.

For first time events or where a previous event has not been held for more than one year, the process is that organizers must obtain signatures of consent from abutting residents of the street to be closed. A copy of any flyer advertising the event should be provided. One week's notice is required between the application and proposed date of the event. There is currently no fee for the street closure permit.

Street closure materials (barricades, signs, cones, etc.) are supplied by HRM free of charge to the applicant, who is responsible for picking them up, returning them and for placing them at each end of the street closure on the day of the event in accordance with the diagram which is provided with the permit.

Staff does not feel that it is necessary to have prior approval of Halifax Regional Police to authorize street parties. Presently, Police are advised of the approval for street party permits in advance of the actual closure. Over the years, there have not been many problems with these events. If any event results in serious problems or complaints, then Police advise the Engineer and permits are not authorized for future requests. Further, there is usually a demand for quick turnaround on street party approvals and adding an additional step of prior Police approval would make the process more cumbersome and could lead to delays in granting the street closure permit.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Phil Francis P.Eng., Manager, Right of Way Services, 490-6219



Report Approved by: Ken Reashor P.Eng., Manager, Traffic & Right of Way Services, 490-6637