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PO Box 1749
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Halifax Regional Council
February 28, 2006

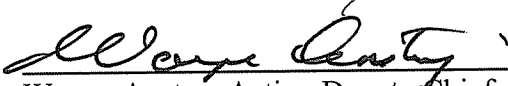
TO:

Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE:

February 23, 2006

SUBJECT:

Early Opening of Capital District Sidewalk Cafés

REPORT

ORIGIN

To coincide with the 2006 JUNO Award events, establishments within the Capital District area have requested permission to open their sidewalk cafés the week of March 27, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that for 2006, Council permit the sidewalk cafés, as approved by Transportation and Public Works, open as early as March 27, 2006. The closing date of October 15, as stipulated with the Sidewalk Café Policy, will remain in effect.

BACKGROUND

On May 27, 1997, Regional Council approved the temporary use of municipal streets and right-of-ways adjacent to food and beverage establishments to be used for the creation of sidewalk cafés.

The HRM Sidewalk Café Policy stipulates specific guidelines for the approvals, permitting, construction and operation of temporary sidewalk cafés. Pertinent to this Information Report, the Sidewalk Café Policy states that: "The months of operation shall be May 15 through October 15 unless otherwise approved."

DISCUSSION

The Halifax Play Hard Committee will host a series of events taking place during the JUNO Awards Weekend, starting March 30 and culminating with the April 2, 2006 JUNO Awards show. In anticipation of these activities, which are centered within the downtown Halifax, area establishments have requested that permission be granted to open their sidewalk cafés as early as March 27, 2006. It is felt the early addition of the sidewalk cafes would communicate a vibrancy and animation to all visitors of the downtown.

The “Red Carpet Zone”, which includes Argyle Street from Duke to Prince Street, and from Argyle Street up Carmichael to Grafton Street, will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Sunday, April 2nd. As with all street closures approved by ROW, the event organizers are required to obtain approvals from all adjacent businesses affected by the closure. CTV is required to get sign off by the businesses in this area, in order to obtain the HRM closure permit.

With the exception of the “Red Carpet Zone”, sidewalk cafes would not interfere with the programming of the Juno Awards. Those businesses located within the “Red Carpet Zone” would be permitted to construct cafes if they do not interfere with the movement of vehicles which are escorting the entertainers to the event, however, these cafes would not be permitted to be open on Sunday, April 2nd at the time of the event as there will be only limited pedestrian access to the area due to security and safety factors.

Therefore, HRM Staff approve of this request, with the following conditions.

1. The early opening date pertains to all cafés located within the established Capital District boundary area.
2. Businesses wishing to construct a café within the “Red Carpet Area” will only be permitted if they do not interfere with the movement of VIP vehicles and will not be permitted to open on Sunday, April 2nd.
3. The early opening date is applicable to 2006 only.
4. The HRM shall be held blameless for any damage to sidewalk cafés caused through snow removal operations.
5. Establishments wishing to open a sidewalk café early, will be required to follow the HRM Streets and Roads Sidewalk Café Permit Application process, and abide by all the criteria within Sidewalk Café Policy.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

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.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could deny the requested March 27, 2006 opening date of the sidewalk cafés.


ATTACHMENTS

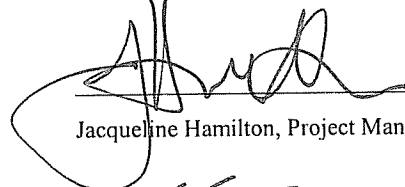
None.

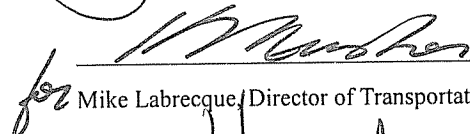
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

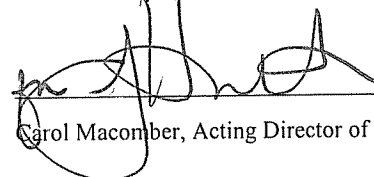
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