

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2007

SUBJECT: TTC CHARTER AND SPECIAL EVENT SERVICE REQUESTS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission support the following:

1. Corporate Policy 2.2.3 – Charter Service recently approved by the Commission, and
2. Forwarding this report to the Budget Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of Wednesday, March 21, 2007 the Commission approved the updated Corporate Policy 2.2.3 – Charter Service. Requests for charter services are handled by the Charter Office and require a 2 week notification period in order to ensure vehicle availability and routing arrangements. However, of late there has been a variety of requests from City Councillors and organizing bodies for charters/special events within a 24-48 hour period. Moreover, discounts and free charters are being requested more frequently.

In addition, numerous requests are being received for service to be provided without fare revenue to be collected. For example, the Federation International de Football Association requested free transportation during their tournament being held in Toronto July 1 – 22, 2007. The costs for transportation were not included in the ticket price by the event planners with cost estimates ranging from \$60,000 to \$300,000, with the high estimate including all volunteers and attendees.

TTC Staff does not approve requests for free charter/special events or for free transportation to special events.

DISCUSSION

The TTC is not in a position to provide free service for charter/special events or to provide service without collecting fares. We have no budget resources to do so, nor does staff have clearly defined guidelines/policies to fairly and consistently assess such requests on a City-wide basis from the numerous events planned in the City.

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure charter services recover all expenses and provide a viable service in a fair and appropriate manner. In addition, special event organizers must provide for the costs associated with their events. Similarly the TTC cannot afford to not collect fares unless this provision has already been accounted for, e.g. service costs included in ticket prices. The TTC will continue to follow normal policies and make every effort to accommodate all requests, but suggest that the City accept responsibility to determine if consideration should be

given to these special requests and if so, funding should be provided by and managed by the City.

JUSTIFICATION

The TTC is not in a position to fairly and objectively determine what consideration should be given to providing services any different than set out in our policies. It would be more appropriate for this role to fall to the City with an appropriate funding allocation.

June 20, 2007
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