

## **Impacts - Reduction in Permit Fees Policy**

<b>Date:</b>	February 5, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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To report on the impact of the Reduction in Permit Fees Policy in 2006.

The Harmonized Permit Allocation and Permit Rate Framework were designed to ensure equitable, accessible and consistent permit rates for facilities across the City. Even though the permit rates are financially reasonable and below the pricing charged by other communities and organizations, there are still groups who experience financial hardships. The Reduction in Permit Fees Policy addresses these issues.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of February 14, 2006, City Council directed that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to Budget Advisory Committee, prior to the 2007 Operating Budget cycle, on permit fee revenues.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060131/edp1rpt/cl016.pdf>

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting on May 17, 18 and 19, 2005, Council adopted Economic Development and Parks Committee Report 5, Clause 2, Harmonized Permit Rates (All Wards). The new harmonized permit rates for gymnasiums, rooms, kitchens, dry pads and sports fields were outlined in Attachment 1 of the report and were scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2006. Council, at its meeting on December 16, 2005, adopted a motion deferring the implementation of these rates to May 1, 2006. Council, at its meeting on January 31, February 1 and 2, 2006 adopted a Reduction in Permit Fees Policy, giving the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation authority to reduce fees if certain conditions were met.

## COMMENTS

Permit rates for 2005 and previous years for gymnasiums, rooms, kitchens, dry pads and sports fields were different across the City and were based on legacy rates of municipalities prior to amalgamation. Overall permit rates for adult resident community groups, non-resident community groups and private/commercial groups have increased, while permit rates for children and youth resident community groups have decreased. The new harmonized permit rates were implemented on May 1, 2006. Many child and youth groups are provided facilities for free.

There are gymnasiums, rooms, kitchens, dry pads and sports fields in parks and recreation facilities that were previously free of charge to user groups and now may be subject to a fee.

It was anticipated that community groups who were in financial need would request that Parks, Forestry and Recreation reduce the fees or eliminate them altogether.

The Reduction in Permit Fees Policy gives authority to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to reduce fees if the community group demonstrates non-profit status, demonstrates financial need with appropriate documentation (letter from senior administrator of organization, audit report, financial records, etc.), illustrates the benefits that the permitted activity will have on the community and does not receive funding from other City of Toronto sources, i.e. grants, or other Divisions for the permitted activity.

The following chart shows the amount of fees reduced in 2006 for 29 permits:

Type of Facility	Location	Users	Amount Waived
Meeting Rooms	Main Square Rec. Centre	Tenants Association	\$142.74
Parkland	St. Clair Gardens	St. Clair Gardens BIA - Light Display	\$53.50

Type of Facility	Location	Users	Amount Waived
Parkland	Music Gardens	Queens Quay Harboufront BIA - Light Display	\$53.50
Parkland & Pavillion	ET Seton & Sunnybrook Parks	Parks and Trees Foundation	\$88.00
Kitchen	Amesbury CC	Seniors Group (permit rooms)	\$720.00
Meeting Rooms	Scarborough Village RC	Toast Masters	\$385.20
Parking Lot	Ken Morrish Softball Complex	Scouts Canada	\$150.00
Showmobile	South District	Children's Wish Foundation	\$1,800.00
Parkland	Willowdale Park	TDSB - Claude Watson School	\$109.00
Parkland	High Park	City Division - EDCT	\$88.00
Parkland	St. Clair Gardens	St. Clair Gardens BIA (Council approval)	\$280.00
Dunk Tank Rental	Scarborough West	City United Way	\$60.00
Parkland	Queen's Park	City Division - EMS	\$53.50
Showmobile	South District	Various City Divisions	\$1,800.00
Parkland	Ramsden Park	Resident's Association	\$53.50
Showmobile	Kipling Yard	Child Care Centre	\$350.00
Parkland	High Park	Toronto Police	\$280.00
Softball Diamonds	Goulding Park	Toronto Police	\$293.36
Parkland	Centennial Park	Toronto Public Health	\$107.00
Parkland	Thompson Park	Toronto Public Health	\$107.00
Parkland	High Park	Toronto Public Health	\$214.00
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$42.80
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$80.25
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$64.20
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$42.80
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$64.20
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$42.80
Meeting Room	J.J. Piccininni CRC	Tenants Association	\$42.80
Parkland	Earl Bales	World War 2 Veterans	\$100.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,668.15</b>

The groups were City Divisions, Agencies, Boards or Commissions or were not-for-profit community groups that met the conditions. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division did not realize revenues of \$7,668.15 in 2006, as a result of the Reduction in Fees Policy. The operating impact in 2007 and future years will continue to be monitored on an ongoing basis. No budget adjustment is required at this time.

In addition to these permits, Parks, Forestry and Recreation also received requests that did not meet the conditions of the policy (i.e. groups were private). As well, incomplete

requests were received where the community groups did not provide the necessary documentation to properly review and respond to the request. Additional follow-up is being done by staff.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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