

**Operation of the 2009 to 2011 Honda Indy Race at Exhibition Place**

<b>Date:</b>	March 9, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Trinity-Spadina - Ward 19
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Te09029te.row

**SUMMARY**

---

Transportation Services is seeking City Council authority to enter into a new three year agreement with Andretti Green Toronto, ULC for 2009 to 2011, and to amend certain traffic and parking regulations and Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, of the Municipal Code to enable the running of the 2009 Honda Indy race at Exhibition Place from July 9 to 12, 2009.

The 2009 Honda Indy race will use the same format as in previous years by previous automobile race organizers. Reports by staff of the municipal agencies, the Toronto Police Services and others indicate that previous races held annually from 1986 to 2007 have been managed in a highly professional manner and have resulted in few public complaints. Transportation Services will again activate the telephone answering "hot line" service to receive problems or complaints during the event. The "hot line" has been successfully activated from 2001 through the 2007 event seasons, enabling staff to deal with complaints immediately for the greatest customer satisfaction. The 2009 race plans have been carefully reviewed and staff are satisfied that the race can be accommodated with minimum public disruption. The main focus of the plan is to encourage race patrons to rely on public transit for travel to and from race events.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**Transportation Services recommends that City Council:**

1. grant authority to enter into a new three year agreement with Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, to permit the holding of the Honda Indy race in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 on the terms and conditions as set out in this report, and such other

terms and conditions as may be required by the General Manager of Transportation Services, in such form as required by the City Solicitor;

2. approve an amendment to Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, subject to the execution of the required agreement with Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, to delegate to the General Manager of Transportation Services the ability to temporarily close the public highways required for the purposes of the Honda Indy race in 2009, 2010 and 2011;
3. approve an amendment to the parking regulations on both sides of Fleet Street, from Bathurst Street to Strachan Avenue, and on both sides of Strachan Avenue, from Lake Shore Boulevard West to King Street West, to prohibit stopping from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from July 9 to 12, 2009, inclusive, and extend to include July 13, 2009, if necessary; and
4. approve establishing a taxicab stand in the eastbound curblane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, between a point 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue and a point 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard, from July 9 to 12, 2009, inclusive, and extended to include July 13, 2009, if necessary.

### **Financial Impact**

The event organizer will be responsible for the costs associated with the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Honda Indy Race. In order to ensure the race is financially sustainable and is re-established as the premier motor sport event in Canada, staff from all City of Toronto divisions and agencies will work with the organizer to develop an event plan that minimizes the cost of the provision of City services. There are no direct financial implications to the City.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

City Council, at its meeting of April 12, 13 and 14, 2005, adopted Clause No. 59 of Report No. 3 of the Toronto and East York Community Council and ratified an agreement between the City of Toronto, Molson Sports & Entertainment Inc., Molson Breweries of Canada Limited and Molson Canada to permit the annual Molson Indy race at Exhibition Place in 2005, 2006 and 2007, granting authority to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services (later transferred to the General Manager of Transportation Services) of the City of Toronto to temporarily close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of highway for such period as required for the purposes of authorizing the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Molson Indy automobile race.

City Council, at its meeting of October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005, adopted Motion J(23), which recommended that Council consent to the assignment of the agreements to Champ Car World Series LLP, the sanctioning body and creator of the racing series of which the Molson Indy as a part. Champ Car formed a new Canadian entity known as "Grand Prix Association of Toronto, which assumed the agreements to undertake the race in 2006 and 2007.

As a result of consolidation in the North American open-wheel racing industry, the race was not held in 2008. The rights for the Toronto race have been assumed by a new organizer, the Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, which has submitted documentation for the staging of the race in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

## **COMMENTS**

This year's event is scheduled for July 10, 11 and 12, 2009 (with July 9, 2009 being the date for track testing) and peak attendance is estimated at 75,000 people. The documentation which has been submitted addresses the obligations of Andretti Green Toronto, ULC related to such aspects as a transportation plan, noise attenuation, community liaison, emergency services and clean-up, among other things. The community consultation process, which was previously established through a Community Liaison Committee comprised of area residents and associations, has been continued.

In accordance with the previous Agreement, the Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, is required to submit certain documentation on or before February 1st each year to address in detail their obligations related to staging of the race. The elements specifically set out in the Agreement include:

1. Attendance;
2. Traffic/Transit/Parking;
3. Noise;
4. Community Liaison;
5. Operating Plan and Safety;
6. Law Enforcement;
7. Set-up/Clean-up;
8. Emergency Planning; and
9. Costs/Insurance/Liability.

Staff have held discussions related to the transportation plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, the Toronto Transit Commission, GO Transit, Exhibition Place and the Emergency Services, as required, to ensure all of the transportation elements of this event are carried out in a comprehensive manner. The plan will again be 'transit oriented', with augmented TTC and GO Transit services and stringent controls on illegal parking in abutting neighbourhoods. In terms of community liaison, a meeting held after the 2007 race revealed no significant problems with operation.

The above noted regulatory changes to prohibit stopping on certain City streets during the event are routinely applied in conjunction with this event. These amendments are required to minimize post-race congestion and ensure a safe operating area.

To further facilitate traffic movement and minimize event and post race congestion on Strachan Avenue, Transportation Services staff have held discussions with staff from the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission, regarding staff

Recommendation No. 4 dealing with a taxi cab stand. All agencies agree that the introduction of a temporary taxi cab stand in the eastbound curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, between a point 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue and a point 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard will assist in alleviating traffic congestion at the intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street.

City Council has previously delegated to the General Manager of Transportation Services the ability to authorize the temporary closings required to accommodate the race in 2005, 2006 and 2007. It is therefore recommended, in anticipation of finalization of a new agreement with Andretti Green Toronto, ULC, that an amendment be made to Municipal Code Chapter 937 to delete this previous delegation and add the Honda Indy races in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (being the term of the City's new agreement as recommended in this report) as a purpose for which the General Manager can close the required public highways for the period of the race, including an additional rain day if required. As with the existing authority delegated to the General Manager under the Code Chapter, this proposed amendment would be subject to the requirement that the Ward Councillor be notified of the impending closure and given the ability to require that a report be submitted to the appropriate Community Council or Standing Committee for recommendation to City Council for final decision.

The re-emergence of the Honda Indy race in Toronto is extremely important to the tourism industry in the City. The race attracts visitors to Toronto from border state markets on a summer weekend when historically hotels and restaurants are not operating at full capacity. The race is also broadcast live to millions of viewers in the United States and around the world which is consistent with the policy objectives advanced in the Agenda for Prosperity to seek opportunities to position Toronto's image internationally. Lastly, with the cancellation of the Formula One Grand Prix of Canada in Montreal, there is a major opportunity to attract Canadian racing enthusiasts as the Honda Indy Toronto will be the only major motor sport event in Eastern Canada occurring in the summer.

### **Process for Road Closures:**

During the first week of June 2009, work crews under contract to the event sponsor, supervised by Transportation Services staff, will install the bulk of the barrier wall system needed for the Honda Indy race. No work will take place during the peak commuter periods or during Ontario Place and Exhibition Place peak periods. The installation procedure only requires limited lane restrictions for short periods of time. Once installed, there will be little adverse impact on Lake Shore Boulevard West traffic operations. The sections of barrier wall that tend to restrict normal traffic operation will not be installed until the major road closures commence on July 8, 2009. At 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2009, subject to traffic conditions, Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Strachan Avenue and Ontario Drive, will be closed to allow completion of the barrier system installation and use of the roadway for the event. Based on previous years' experience, it is proposed to re-open this portion of Lake Shore Boulevard West as soon as practicable after the final race, but no later than midnight, Sunday, July 12, 2009 (Monday, July 13, 2009 in the event the Sunday event is cancelled).

Access to the closed portions of Lake Shore Boulevard West will be restricted to persons accessing Ontario Place, local traffic, emergency vehicles, Transportation Services vehicles and public transit vehicles. Police officers, assisted by Transportation Services staff and equipment, will control use of all restricted areas.

### **Authorization for New Agreement**

The previous Agreement with Grand Prix Association of Toronto to permit the holding of the race in Toronto expired on December 31, 2007. This report therefore contains the recommendation that a new three year agreement with Andretti Green Toronto, ULC be authorized on the same terms and conditions as the previous agreement, and such further terms and conditions as may be satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor. As in the past, it is anticipated that such terms will be consistent, where necessary, with the agreement to be entered into between Andretti Green Toronto, ULC and The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place.

The City Solicitor has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **CONTACT**

Dennis Dionyssiou, Supervisor, Right of Way Management

Telephone: 416-392-0839, Fax: 416-392-7465, E-mail: [ddionyss@toronto.ca](mailto:ddionyss@toronto.ca)

### **SIGNATURE**

---

Peter J. Noehammer, P.Eng.  
Director, Transportation Services  
Toronto and East York District

### **ATTACHMENTS**

P:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York\row\te09029te.row - gp