



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Operation of the 2012 to 2014 Honda Indy Toronto Race
at Exhibition Place**

Date:	March 27, 2012
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting General Manager, Transportation Services and General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina - Ward 19
Reference Number:	Te2012030te

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council authority to enter into a new three year agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC for 2012-2014 and to amend certain traffic regulations and Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, of the Municipal Code to enable the running of the Honda Indy Toronto race at Exhibition Place on July 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2012 , July 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2013 and July 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2014, subject to the event satisfying all regulatory and contractual requirements in each year of the race.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services and Economic Development and Culture recommend that in order to authorize the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Honda Indy Toronto race events, and conduct the 2012 race:

1. City Council grant authority to enter into a new three year agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC, to permit the holding of the Honda Indy Toronto events in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Acting General Manager of Transportation Services and the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture, in such form as required by the City Solicitor, and in consideration of the unique nature and requirements of the event and the financial and promotional benefits to the City and Exhibition Place, that Green Savoree Toronto ULC pay the amounts as set out in Attachment 1 to the report (March 27, 2012) from the Acting General Manager, Transportation Services, and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in respect of the listed City services required for the event.

2. City Council amend Chapter 937, Temporary Closing of Highways, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, subject to the execution of the required agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC, to delegate authority to the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close any highway or portion of a highway as required for the purposes of the Honda Indy Toronto race in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
3. City Council establish a taxi cab stand in the eastbound curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, from 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue to 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard, from July 6 to 8, 2012, inclusive, and extended to include July 9, 2012, if necessary.
4. City Council authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with this proposal will be borne by the applicant, with the exception of a portion of the cost of certain City services required for the 2012 and 2013 event as listed in Attachment 1 to this report. The full cost of the services for 2014 will be paid by the applicant.

BACKGROUND

City Council, at its meeting of April 6, 2009, ratified an agreement between the City of Toronto and Andretti Green Toronto ULC, and in doing so authorized staff to temporarily close Lake Shore Boulevard West to permit the annual Honda Indy Toronto race at Exhibition Place in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (Item TE24.69).

Similar authorization is now required to permit the race in 2012, 2013 and 2014. In conjunction with this matter, the Green Savoree (formerly Andretti Green) Toronto ULC organization has submitted documentation under the date of December 12, 2011, for the staging of the race in 2012.

COMMENTS

This year's event is scheduled for July 6, 7 and 8, 2012, with a peak attendance estimated at 75,000. The documentation which has been submitted addresses the obligations of Green Savoree 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 established through a Community Liaison Committee comprised of area residents and associations, has been continued as in previous years.

In accordance with the previous Agreement, the Green Savoree organization 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.

Transportation Plan

Staff has held discussions related to the transportation plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of Green Savoree, the Toronto Transit Commission, GO Transit, Exhibition Place, and 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 2011 race revealed no significant problems with its operation.

To further facilitate traffic movement and minimize event and post race congestion on Strachan Avenue, Transportation staff have held discussions with Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission, regarding Recommendation No. 3. All agencies agree that the introduction of a temporary taxi cab stand in the eastbound curb lane of Lake Shore Boulevard West, from 30 metres east of Strachan Avenue to 30 metres west of Fort York Boulevard will assist in alleviating traffic congestion at the intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street.

Delegated Authority for Road Closure

City Council previously delegated to the General Manager of Transportation Services authority to temporarily close sections of roads required to accommodate the race in 2009, 2010 and 2011. It is therefore recommended, subject to finalization of a new agreement with Green Savoree, that an amendment be made to the Code Chapter to delete this previous delegation and substitute a reference to the Honda Indy Toronto races in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (being the term of the City’s new agreement with Green Savoree as recommended in this report). This will enable the General Manager to close the required public highways for the period of the race, including an additional rain day if required. As with the other authority delegated to the General Manager under the Code Chapter, this 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 Council for final decision.

Process for Road Closure

During the first week of June 2012, 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 Toronto 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 4, 2012. At 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 4, 2012, 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 8, 2012 (Monday, July 9, 2012 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 Andretti Green Toronto ULC to permit the holding of the race in Toronto expired on December 31, 2011. This report therefore contains the recommendation that a new three year agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC be authorized on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services and the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor. As in the past, it is anticipated that such terms will be consistent, where appropriate, with the agreement to be entered into between Green Savoree Toronto ULC and The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place. It is also recommended that, in light of the unique nature of the event and the commercial benefits, both financial and promotional, to the City of Toronto and Exhibition Place, the payments by Honda Indy Toronto in respect of the cost of certain City services, namely staffing, paving and EMS required for the event be as set out in Attachment 1 to this report. In return for this contribution the City will receive full page ad space in the Official Indy Program, one 30 second commercial every day, 2 – 30 second Public Address announcements per day, 10 spectator signs throughout the race site, two – 10 x 10 display spaces in Thunder Alley and signage associated with the parade lap. The Honda Indy Toronto is Ontario's largest sporting event with an annual impact of over 50 million dollars involving 3 major television networks and an audience of 145 million people. The media value of the Honda Indy Toronto to the City is estimated to be in the order of 15 million dollars.

CONCLUSIONS

The Honda Indy Toronto race is scheduled for Exhibition Place from July 6 to 8, 2012, inclusive, using the same format as in previous years (with the exception of Thursday

July 5th, which will be utilized for track testing). In the event of a delay or cancellation of the Sunday event, the final race will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012. Reports by staff of the municipal agencies, the Toronto Police Service and others, indicate that previous races held annually since 1986, have been managed in a highly professional manner and have resulted in few public complaints. The 2012 race plans have been carefully reviewed and once again, staff is 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.

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

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – In Kind Services and Costs for Honda Indy

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