
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM8.35	ACTION			Ward:All
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Toronto Caribbean Carnival - Waiving of Fees - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize appropriate City staff to waive the City fees and charges that would have been otherwise charged to the organizer of the Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival's Festival Management Committee.
2. City Council direct that, on a policy basis, these fees and charges be waived in future as part of the City's contribution to the Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival and City Council request the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to consider appropriate Budget adjustments that may need to be made.

The requested fees and charges to be waived for 2014, 2015, and in future are:

- a. Decking costs for Lamport Stadium (approximately \$11,300).
- b. Rental fee, staffing and fencing costs and City cleanup for Olympic Island (also called Carnival Island) on the day after the Grand Parade (August 2 in 2015) (approximately \$6,500).

Summary

The Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival is a festival of people, culture, music, dance and food that features events and activities beginning in early June and culminating with two weeks of intense, large-scale events like the King and Queen Show, Pan Alive, and the signature Grand Parade. The festival is an anchor in Toronto's summer calendar, attracting Torontonians and tourists alike to revel in the celebrations. The festival generates national and international attention that enhances our City's brand as an exciting, diverse and culturally-vibrant place to be.

As in previous years, the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, now in its 48th year, requires support

from the City in order to host the signature parade and related events. This support has taken the form of relief from City fees and charges for the festival organizers, the Festival Management Committee, thus assuring its financial viability and the continued success of this world class event.

Since 2006, the City has been waiving fees and charges for Caribana (now Toronto Caribbean Carnival), which has helped ensure that the Festival Management Committee can afford to organize the festival and post an unbroken chain of successful audits. In 2011, I brought a Motion to Council requesting that the fees and charges the City had traditionally waived be waived on a permanent basis. Some of these included rental and staffing costs for the events held at Lamport Stadium, and the rental, staffing, clean up and fencing costs for Marilyn Bell Park on parade day. At that time, The Festival Management Committee was no longer hosting an event on Olympic Island, and thus the associated waiving of fees was not requested. However, in more recent years, the Festival Management Committee has revived the Olympic Island tradition, and so is once again incurring fees for the associated permit, equipment, staffing and ferry service.

As City Council Liaison to the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, I am requesting that some of the City's fees and charges be waived for 2014 and for this year. Because of the fact that waiving these fees helps ensure the Festival Management Committee can afford to operate the festival and in light of the massive economic and promotional benefit the festival brings to Toronto, I am requesting that these fees and charges be waived in the future on a permanent basis.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.35

(July 8, 2015) Fiscal Impact Statement from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-82128.pdf>)