



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Operation of the 2015 to 2017 Honda Indy Toronto Race
at Exhibition Place**

Date:	January 26, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina - Ward 19
Reference Number:	TE2015001.te.row.doc

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council authority to enter into a three year agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC for 2015-2017 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 June 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2015, July 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2016 and July 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2017, subject to the event satisfying all regulatory and contractual requirements in each year of the race.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that in order to authorize the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Honda Indy Toronto events, and conduct the 2015 race, that:

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 2015, 2016 and 2017 on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services, in such form as required by the City Solicitor.
2. City Council amend Chapter 937-3.1, 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 to vehicular and pedestrian traffic any highway or portion of a highway for such periods as required for the purposes of the Honda Indy Toronto race in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

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, during the Honda Indy Toronto race from June 11 to 14, 2015, inclusive, and extended to include June 15, 2015, if necessary, and also during the Honda Indy Toronto race in each of 2016 and 2017, such specific dates to be determined by the General Manager of Transportation Services.
4. The appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed 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.

BACKGROUND

City Council, at its meeting of April 8 and 9, 2012, approved a three year 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 2012, 2013 and 2014 (Item TE15.27).

Similar authorization is now required to permit the race in 2015, 2016 and 2017. In conjunction with this matter, the Green Savoree Toronto ULC organization has submitted documentation under the date of January 7, 2015, for the staging of the race in 2015.

COMMENTS

This year's event is scheduled for June 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2015, with a peak attendance estimated at over 80,000. These dates were selected to avoid any conflicts with PAN AM related activities. 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 Toronto ULC 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 subjects 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 have held discussions related to the transportation plan and will continue to liaise with representatives of Green Savoree Toronto ULC, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), 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 2014 race revealed no significant problems with operation.

To further facilitate traffic movement and minimize event and post race congestion on Strachan Avenue, Transportation staff have held discussions with the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission, regarding Recommendation No. 3 respecting road closures. 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. This taxi cab stand will operate during the Honda Indy Toronto event dates in each of the three years of the agreement.

Delegated Authority for Road Closure

It is recommended, subject to finalization of a new agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC, that an amendment be made to the Code Chapter 937-3.1 in reference to the Honda Indy races in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (being the term of the City’s new agreement with Green Savoree Toronto ULC as recommended in this report). This will enable the General Manager of Transportation Services 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 of Transportation Services 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 Closures:

During the first week of May 2015, 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 June 10, 2015. At 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 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, June 14, 2015 (Monday, June 15, 2015 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, 2014. This report therefore recommends 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 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.

CONCLUSIONS

The Honda Indy Toronto race is scheduled for Exhibition Place from June 11 to 14, 2015, inclusive, using the same format as in previous years (with the exception of Thursday June 11th, 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, June 15, 2015. 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 2015 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.

Economic Development and Culture are working with the Honda organizers to maximize the economic impact of the race.

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

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SIGNATURES

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