

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM22.33	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Improving Safety and Security at the 2017 Toronto Caribbean Carnival -
by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc**

** 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 Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and the General Manager, Transportation Services, to convene a meeting with the Toronto Caribbean Carnival's organizers, stakeholders, and the City's Liaison Committee to discuss a plan to address systemic issues around safety and security.
2. City Council request the organizers of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival to present the parade route and security plan to Transportation Services and the City Liaison Committee as soon as possible, and at very latest, by February 1, 2017.

Summary

2017 is the 50th Anniversary of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, one of Toronto's premiere annual cultural events in the City, and a hugely popular festival. The City supports the festival with annual operating funding and significant in-kind support for the event organizers. It attracts significant tourism and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean Canadians in Toronto.

The carnival parade route has been stymied by persistent and systemic issues of crowding and disruption by "stormers". The "stormers", who should rightly be spectators, have not paid for the privilege to participate in the parade by joining one of the parade's official mas bands. This has led to complaints by official parade participants who then feel understandably upset by having paid to parade in costume with the official mas bands, but are overwhelmed along the route by the "stormers", making the official mas band participants feel unsafe, and frustrated by how slowly the parade moves.

Next year, it is possible that attendance will be greater than usual, due to the milestone anniversary. While a long-term solution, including a public education program, is required to fully address the issue, in the short term, City divisions and agencies, such as Economic Development and Culture, Transportation Services, Solid Waste Management Services,

Exhibition Place, the Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services, who support the event each year will be better placed to support a safe and enjoyable festival, if the parade route and the security plan for the route are established well in advance of the event.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM22.33