

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT

RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

RAPPORT

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 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 08 June 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP. Director Mobility Services and Corporate Fleet Services
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **FÊTE-CARIBE PARADE**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That Transportation Committee recommend Council approve exceptions to Council's Special Events Policy to accommodate this year's Fête-Caribe Parade as follows:

- 1. the doubling back and reversing of the direction of the Fête-Caribe Parade route, and;**
- 2. the crossing of the parade route by vehicular traffic, under Police direction, while the parade is in progress.**

BACKGROUND

On 25 February 1998, Council approved the Department's Special Events Policy. The policy includes a breakdown of the different types of special events and specific approval criteria for each. The parade component includes limitations, two of which are: that a parade not be permitted to double back on its route or reverse its direction, and that regular traffic not be permitted to cross a parade route until the parade has passed.

The second limitation was recommended for safety reasons. On 23 June 1993, Council approved the recommendation of Transportation Committee that the Regional policy for parades be changed to prevent traffic, except for emergency vehicles and buses under Police supervision, from crossing the parade route until the parade has passed. Since that time, it has been the Department's practice to

make this a specific condition of approval in all Special Event Permits issued to parade organizers. It is a very safe practice and one which works well.

The first limitation was recommended as the practice of a parade route reversing its direction is normally not a good idea. It has the effect of significantly increasing the time that roads must remain closed as well as the time that traffic is unable to cross the event route. The recommendation to not permit a parade route to double back on itself was further made as this invariably means that local traffic becomes caught within the bounds of the road closure, in effect trapping residents as a result of not being able to cross the parade route while the parade is in progress.

On 23 June 1999, Council approved an amendment to the Special Events Policy. This amendment limits major parades and other special events that require complete road closures on Bank Street between the Queensway and Lansdowne Park to three on Saturdays (one between 1 January and 30 April, one between 1 May and 31 August and one between 1 September and 31 December) and one on Sunday each year and requires that the application process be administered on seniority basis unless the previous year's event does not re-occur, in which case any substitute event will be approved on a first come first served basis.

DISCUSSION

The Fête-Caribe Parade was one of last year's major parades that occurred on a Saturday and passed through the Glebe area on Bank Street. The event organizer planned to use the same route again this year however, for the first time, the Fête-Caribe Parade will take place on a day when the Central Canada Exhibition is in progress, Saturday August 19th. For this reason, the Bank Street route, including the Glebe area, is unavailable for the Fête-Caribe Parade this year.

As a result, staff proposed an alternate route to this year's Fête-Caribe organizers; a route which in keeping with Council's policies will not affect downtown transit service along the primary Transitway corridor for the Region consisting of Albert and Slater Streets and the Mackenzie King Bridge, will not affect traffic south of Highway 417 and will provide the Fête-Caribe organization with both parade staging and disassembling locations.

The proposal is as follows: Laurier Avenue between Nicholas and Elgin Streets would be closed prior to the commencement of the parade, which is to begin at 11:00 a.m., to allow for the assembling of the parade floats; the parade would leave Regional Headquarter's Festival Plaza and proceed west to Bank Street, turn onto Bank Street and proceed south to Gladstone Avenue, turn onto Gladstone Avenue and proceed east to Elgin Street, turn onto Elgin Street and proceed north to Laurier Avenue and turn onto Laurier Avenue ending back at Regional Headquarter's Festival Plaza.

The Fête-Caribe Parade is an event that requires a large staging area appropriately located. It also requires a parade route which includes turns that long tractor-trailers can negotiate. The Fête-Caribe Parade further requires an appropriate location where the large parade floats can disassemble and the

tractor-trailers can conveniently disperse. In addition, it is important that the parade end at Regional Headquarter's Festival Plaza, the site of the after-parade festivities.

The proposed alternate parade route addresses the needs of the Fête-Caribe organizers without impacting the Central Canada Exhibition.

If the recommendation to make these policy exceptions is approved, staff will expand the usual public notification requirement to include the entire area bounded by the proposed parade route (i.e. Laurier Avenue, Bank Street, Gladstone Avenue and Elgin Street). Staff will also place ads in the three local newspapers advising of road closure details as is the usual practice for large events that will have considerable community impact. Further, if the recommendation is approved, the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police will ensure that sufficient Police resources are dedicated to the parade on the occasions when traffic must be directed across the route while the parade is in progress.

The Fête-Caribe Parade organizers have been assured by staff that when their annual parade date returns to a time that does not coincide with the timing of the Central Canada Exhibition, their present seniority will apply and the Fête-Caribe Parade route can again include Bank Street south of the Queensway.

The proposed alternate parade route is comprised of Regional roads with the exception of Gladstone Avenue, a City of Ottawa street. Preliminary discussions have occurred with appropriate City staff concerning the use of Gladstone Avenue for the Fête-Caribe Parade. City staff have indicated that upon receiving a formal request from Fête-Caribe organizers the use of Gladstone Avenue will be approved subject to a satisfactory internal circulation of said proposal (i.e. no conflicting events or construction planned for Gladstone Avenue).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

*Approved by
Doug Brousseau*