

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 1998 10 09

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 55-01-02

SUBJECT: 20th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY RUN

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for the 20th Annual Christmas Toy Run

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the Toy Run as discussed in this report.
2. THAT copies of this report be sent to:
 - a) the coordinator of the event, Raymond DesCotes, Executive Director, Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau, 1370 Napier Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5L 2M4; and
 - b) District Manager, Ministry of Transportation & Highways, #200 - 1065 Columbia Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 6H7.

REPORT

A request to ride through the City of Burnaby for the 20th Annual Christmas Toy Run on Sunday, 1998 October 25 has been received from Raymond DesCotes, Executive Director of the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau.

Changes have been proposed to the format used previously in an effort to reduce the negative impact on the residents and other motoring public due to the success of the event and the large number of participants it attracts. The event has grown over the years to the point that it is taxing the resources of the police departments in Port Moody and Burnaby that are required to provide support. In 1996 the event required that Hastings Street westbound be totally closed for approximately one hour to allow the passage of the motorcycle parade. All side streets to Hastings were closed with barricades supplied by the City and manned by auxiliary officers. Residents north of Hastings Street were significantly affected as they were unable to exit their neighbourhood during this period. Transit operations were also significantly disrupted. Subsequent efforts to introduce gaps into the stream

of motorcyclists at the start of the event to allow for some cross traffic were not successful. The Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) has jurisdiction over Hastings Street, consequently, the organizing committee met this past August with representatives of the MOTH, police forces and City staff to address the above concerns. The agreed principles are outlined below.

The event will start at approximately 10:00 am, Sunday, October 25, 1998 at Coquitlam Centre, continuing through Port Moody to Burnaby (Barnet, Hastings) and ending at the P.N.E. in Vancouver.

The event is no longer being held as a "Continuous Parade". The participants will be asked to use the "Rules of the Road". The run will be started in pods based on 4 minutes per pod with a 6 minute gap between pods. There will be a car at the end of the run identifying the fact that the run is over for wrap up of support services. A police officer will be stationed at every major traffic controlled intersection to direct traffic as required (we anticipate that the discrete platoons of cyclists will tend to blend as the run progresses). The RCMP will be in a position to override traffic signal operation on Hastings Street to expedite the parade and also to allow side street traffic to clear as necessary. The barricading of all side streets on the north side of Hastings will not be done this year as it has been in the previous 2 years.

The B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists and the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau will ensure that the changes agreed upon such as the pod concept are advertised well in advance and will endeavour to ensure that these changes are followed by the participants. We have received a facsimile copy of requisite insurance.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SP:jh

cc: Director Finance
cc: RCMP - Traffic Division