

Subject: Liability Insurance For Block Parties

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Federation of North Vancouver

Community Associations

Mayor & Council:

RE: Liability Insurance For Block Parties

The *Federation of NV Community Associations* would like to draw your attention to the matter of the District charging a liability insurance fee for residents holding block parties.

For many years District residents have organized neighbourhood block parties where for a few hours a local road is closed and families get together for a barbecue and social interaction. These perfectly safe annual events contribute to building strong, healthy communities where people know and care about their neighbours. Without any consultation a change in policy this year resulted a \$50 liability insurance fee for block parties under 50 people and \$100 for gatherings over 50 people. According to the Engineering Department, this new policy has resulted in 50 percent fewer block party permits being issued this year. Is this really a productive policy if the result is to discourage residents from gathering together to socialize on their own streets?

FONVCA believes that rather than putting up obstacles like liability insurance in the path of residents wanting to organize social events, the municipality ought to encourage and assist residents in every way possible to hold block parties and thereby create and preserve healthy neighbourhoods. We therefore urge you to review this matter and remove the provision requiring liability insurance for neighbourhood block parties.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Federation of N.V. Community Associations

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