

Subject: Fees for holding block-watch parties...Agenda Item #3 Dec 12/2005

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From: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

To: council@dnv.org, jharris@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, rhicks@dnv.org, mlittle@dnv.org, dmackay-dunn@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, Eric Andersen <andersen@sagafc.com>

Your Worship & Members of Council,

Please support our communities and NOT charge for holding neighbourhood block-watch parties on public property.

The section manager staff report

http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Reports/581062.pdf

of agenda item # 3 "Annual Review of Fees - 2006" is appended below.

FONVCA (Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations) had requested the previous council to waive the \$25 registration fee for neighbourhoods holding block-watch parties. This was to be considered by the current council when the fees were brought forward.

In my opinion, staff's reasons for putting forth the fees are somewhat specious as the

- a) proposed water main works are well known to residents and they would not schedule such block party events at those rare times.
- b) road rehabilitation works, an even rarer event, are unlikely to be at conflict with block-watch party requests.
- c) movie filming events should not take priority over neighbourhood driven events.

Thus most of the costs appear to cover the cost of bureaucracy. The short term barricades are hardly an impediment for either police or fire service and thus even the faxing of such events to these bodies seems redundant. **In the spirit of encouraging neighbourly events the \$25 registration fee for such events should be waived. The average added tax burden for a typical residential homes is about 3 cents. Considering the positive aspects this adds to the community such a minor subsidy is extremely cost-effective.**

I urge council to support the waiving of the \$25 registration fee.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost

F. Highway Use Permits in the case of Block Watch Parties

District residents who wish to close the road in order to hold a Block Watch Party are currently required to pay a \$25.00 registration fee for a Highway Use Permit (HUP). The permit is required as per the Street and Traffic Bylaw for the closure of the road and is charged for all parties who request and get approval for closing the road. Section 703 of the Street and Traffic Bylaw states "No person shall use or permit the use of any Highway for the purpose of performing any work or doing any act not associated with normal Highway uses, or which will in any way impede or interfere with traffic or will deface or injure any such Highway, except as specifically authorized by a Highway Use Permit". At its meeting on October 24, 2005, Council considered a motion proposing to waive this fee for Block Watch Parties. Council directed staff to report back on exempting all community-building events from registration fees during the review of 2006 Fees and Charges. Staff have reviewed this issue and recommends that the HUP fee for current block watch party fee and other registration fees for community use of District property/services be retained. The fee covers administration by District staff to review the application, check any conflicts with DNV work such as road rehabilitation works, water main replacement works, movie filming etc. Staff also advises on how to collect barricades and any other advice on the permit. The permits are faxed to the RCMP and Fire and other affected parties. The average clerical time would be 0.5 to

1hr / application. The District is already subsidizing such events as applicants do not have to pay for insurance which is \$25 for 26-100 people and they do not have to pay for rental of barricades which are provided for free of charge by the Operations Centre. Last year there were 41 approved HUP's for block parties and for 2005 approximately 40 have been processed to date.

On the larger issue, it is often difficult to distinguish between an event held in the community and community-building events. As is the case with the HUP fee for a Block Watch Party, current fees for community events are considered nominal in nature and are not set to recover District's costs.