



Date: January 20, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board  
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation  
SUBJECT: Special Event Approval - St. Patrick's Day Run 2014

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve a request from the Running Room, organizers of the St. Patrick's Day 5K running race, for the closure of Stanley Park Drive on March 15, 2014, from 9:30am to 10:30am.

## POLICY

Board approval is required for major events not included on the annual Special Events Calendar and/or are in variance with one or more Park Board bylaws.

## BACKGROUND

The Running Room, one of North America's most recognized names in running and walking, will be hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day 5K running race on March 15, 2014, in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Since its inception, this event has raised in excess of \$70,000 for the Canadian Diabetes Association. The event's reasonable distance of 5K also supports health and wellness for participants of all abilities, from competitive runners to first time racers and walkers.

## DISCUSSION

Participation in the St. Patrick's Day race has grown steadily since its introduction and totaled approximately 2,000 runners and walkers in 2013. 2014 participation is anticipated to exceed these figures and be the largest event to date. In previous years, the event route primarily utilized the Stanley Park seawall, however, the run's growing popularity necessitates that the event route be moved from the seawall to Stanley Park Drive. Moving the event route from the seawall to a Park roadway will minimize disruption to members of the public using the seawall and will enable the event to grow and accommodate additional participants in future years.

The expanded event would start and end on Pipeline Road, and require a maximum road closure of one hour (see Appendix A). The race route would allow for a gradual re-opening of the roads, with Park Drive to Avison Way re-opening to vehicles 5 to 10 minutes after the start of the race; other road segments would be re-opened on comparable time increments.

The potential impact of this event on Park stakeholders has been taken into consideration. Stakeholder representatives were engaged and consulted and were largely supportive of the proposed change. Strategies were also reviewed to mitigate potential challenges. Pending approval of this recommendation, the event organizers will:

- Complete a comprehensive transportation and safety plan;
- Continue to work with Park stakeholders on event planning; and
- Work to provide Park stakeholders with marketing opportunities.

## **SUMMARY**

The St. Patrick's Day 5K running race supports and promotes active living for Vancouverites of all abilities. The race's growing popularity requires a route change to better accommodate the event in 2014 and future years. After thoughtful consideration, staff do not anticipate any significant issues as a result of this change and recommend that the Board approve the request as outlined above. Staff will continue to collaborate with organizers to ensure the event is executed in accordance with all permit conditions and Board expectations.

Prepared by:

Octavio Silva  
Manager of Business Development  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
Vancouver, BC

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Proposed Route for 2014 St. Patrick's Day 5K Event

