

Date: May 29, 2007



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Pride Festival Special Occasion License**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board grant permission for a Special Occasion License in conjunction with the Vancouver Pride Society Festival on Sunday August 5, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*

## POLICY

Board approval is required for major events that are not included on the annual Special Event Calendar and/or are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws or guidelines (see Appendix A).

## BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Pride Society will be hosting their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade and Festival on Sunday August 5, 2007. The Parade, which has well over 100 floats and 4,000 participants, takes place along Denman Street and Beach Avenue. The Pride Festival occurs at Sunset Beach field. The Parade originally began 28 years ago as a small march. It has presently grown into a nationally and internationally recognized event, attracting thousands of people each year.

The Vancouver Pride Society brings together members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community, their friends, and supporters in celebration of the unique spirit and culture of the GLBT community.

## DISCUSSION

The organizers are requesting permission to have a beer garden in the sport court area at Sunset Beach parking lot. The beer garden will have a capacity of 200 people and will operate from 1:00-5:30 pm, serving only beer and wine. Security and food services will be provided as well as the development of an emergency evacuation plan. All net proceeds from the sale of alcohol will help offset the costs of the Vancouver Pride Society Festival events.

Staff are recommending the Board approve the special occasion license request. The Festival is a well-organized and well-conducted event. Although there will be a displacement of sport users in the sport court, this request is for a brief period of time. It will occur in conjunction with the Festival activities at Sunset Beach field and parking lot. A notification regarding the Pride Society's special occasion license request was sent to the West End Resident's Association. The Association has not expressed any concerns at this time.

## **SUMMARY**

The Vancouver Pride Society Parade and Festival has developed into one of Vancouver's most popular and anticipated summer events.

Prepared by:

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