



Date: September 22, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board  
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation  
SUBJECT: Special Event Approval - Changes to Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a request from the Competitor Group, organizers of the *Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon*, for a post-race event at Devonian Harbour Park on October 26, 2014, from 7:45am to 1:00pm.
- B. THAT the Board approve a request from the Competitor Group for a Public Special Occasion License at Devonian Harbour Park from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

## POLICY

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

## BACKGROUND

The Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series is a collection of international running events produced by the Competitor Group. The Series attracts participants from around the world to destination cities and features activations by live local bands, cheering squads along the course route and a post-race concert. The Vancouver event, approved by the Park Board on October 21, 2013, will take place on October 26, 2014, and represents the 25<sup>th</sup> Rock 'n' Roll Series location in North America. To date, approximately 12,500 participants have registered for either the 10km run or the half marathon, both of which will pass through Stanley Park. In order to successfully execute the event, the organizers have proactively engaged key stakeholders and worked collaboratively with City and Park Board staff.

## DISCUSSION

While both running events (the 10km run and the half marathon) will pass through Stanley Park, the start/finish line and the post-race concert were originally scheduled to be held offsite in a Downtown Vancouver location. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the offsite location selected to host these event components is no longer available. As a result, the Competitor Group has applied to locate these race features, which will include music performances and licensed areas, at Devonian Harbour Park.

In order to accommodate this request, the revised race route will require some seawall closures (between the Vancouver Rowing Club and Chilco Plaza) in addition to previously approved road closures in Stanley Park. Similar closures of the seawall have been afforded to other large race events in the past, such as the BMO Vancouver Marathon, in order to protect both the public and event participants.

To accommodate the finish line for the event, an additional section of the seawall (between Chilco Plaza and the foot of Denman Street) would be closed between 6:00am and 1:00pm (Appendix A). A re-routing plan for pedestrians and cyclists on the impacted sections would be developed and subject to approval by the City's Traffic Management Department.

Beyond the race route revisions, the event organizer is also seeking a public special occasion license for the post-race event area. The details and requirements of the licensed area are currently being developed in collaboration with the VPD, VF&RS and BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. More information on this component of the event is expected to be available shortly.

The City's FEST Committee (which includes the VPD, VF&RS, BC Ambulance Service, BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, City Special Events, Traffic Management and Park Board staff) has reviewed and endorsed the requested event changes. Subject to Park Board approval, staff will work with the Competitor Group to revise existing safety, security, traffic and waste management plans.

After careful consideration, staff do not anticipate any significant issues arising from the requested event and route changes, and will continue to collaborate with the organizers to ensure the event is executed in accordance with all permit conditions.

## **SUMMARY**

The Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon is an example of an industry leading active lifestyle organization collaborating with a historical local race (James Cunningham Seawall Race) to produce a world class running event for the City of Vancouver. The race promotes active living, activates public spaces and enhances the vibrancy of our city. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the requested changes from the organizer as outlined above.

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Preliminary Site Plan - Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon - Devonian Park

