



## Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

**Date:** September 27, 2005  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Subject: Set Public Hearing regarding Amendments to Block Event Ordinance**

### **Recommendation:**

Set Public Hearing before the Transportation & Public Works Committee on October 25, 2005 amending Title 17, Chapter 455 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Streets and Sidewalks: Block Events

### **Previous Directives:**

The Committee on August 23, 2005 directed the City Attorney to draft amendments which address the need for additional hours requested by permit applicants.

**Prepared by:** Jon Wertjes, P.E., Director, Traffic & Parking Services  
Ed Backstrom, Office of the City Attorney

### **Approved by:**

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Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Jon Wertjes, P.E., Director, Traffic & Parking Services  
Ed Backstrom, Office of the City Attorney

### **Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

### **Background/Supporting Information:**

Pursuant to City Council direction the members of the City Attorney's Office, Regulatory Services, Public Works, and the Police Department discussed how Chapter 455, Block Events, could be amended to address the Council's concerns.

In examining the problem it was found that events with over 2,500 participants have historically needed some flexibility in order to accommodate them. Since discretion in determining conditions for these large events appears to be desirable, the proposed amendments are an

attempt to allow the council to use its discretion in setting the conditions when a permit is issued for a large event.

The amendments to the ordinance accomplish this by creating a new class of block events: the large block event. Permits for these events will not be handled administratively, but a committee made up of city officials would make recommendations to the city council concerning time, place, and other conditions that are deemed necessary to insure the public is protected. The city council will then act on the permit application. The number of these requests appears to be limited; therefore they would not appear to be overly burdensome for the city council to handle.

City personnel have stated that at least a 60-day window is realistically needed in order to deal with these large events, therefore a minimum 60-day application period is proposed, subject to a waiver if applicant can make a showing of extreme hardship. The proposed fee for this new type of permit was derived from information received from Public Works, and is in line with the long range plan of the Public Works Department.

While discussing the issue raised by the Transportation and Public Works Committee, other problems in administering the block event ordinance were also discussed. The proposed amendments also address these issues, which include: changing the hours allowed for a non-profit event in a residential area so that the residential event hours apply as long as the event is not on an arterial street; changing the starting time for business events for weekend and holidays from 10:00 am to 8:00 a.m. thus allowing earlier set up times for events; the hours for the business district events during the week be changed from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm because rush hour has not abated by 6:00 pm; a change to 455.25(j) that will allow the sale of all legal forms of alcoholic beverages to address the demand from applicants to allow the sale of premium spirits so that the manufacturers can sponsor the event and provide entertainment funding in exchange for the brand exposure; clarify the language in 455.25(k) making it a permit is required for any use of sound amplifying equipment.

Cc: Phil Schleisman  
Ed Backstrom  
Ricardo Cervantes