

Re: Item No. 11.2.1

**HALIFAX**

# **HRM Support for Open Streets Initiatives**

2021-06-08

# Origin

- Various requests by event organizers to reduce municipal costs for events
- Following Council direction in 2016, Open Streets was encouraged to apply for event funding
- Municipality also requested *Motor Vehicle Act* (now *Traffic Safety Act (TSA)*) changes that would replace police with Traffic Control Persons at reduced costs to event organizers
- No TSA changes are expected in the near term
- Therefore Audit & Finance Standing Committee requested:
  - A staff report on options to reduce the cost of street closures for Open Streets events, specifically, a possible grant program specifically for street closures or subsidizing the policing costs.

# HRM Support to Special Events

## Administrative Order # 2014-010-ADM, Respecting Special Events Task Force Process for Events, Parade and Street Closures

### Special Events Task Force (SETF ) Process

- Application received from Event Organizer
  - 120 days prior to event
- Assess Event's request level of complexity and determine lead business unit
- SETF Meeting may be required with the Event Organizer if multiple business units are affected
- SETF works with Event Organizer to finalize event logistics
  - May include special arrangements and/or alternate location(s)
  - Business unit charge for municipal services rendered
  - Events Staff with Finance Staff settles municipal costs and invoices are issued
  - Admin Order includes timeline of processes

# HRM Support to Special Events

## Two Special Events Grant Programs

- Administrative Order # 2014-020-GOV – Respecting Marketing Levy Special Events Grants
  - Provides funding to attract and host with large scale sporting events and tourism events
- Administrative Order # 2014-021-GOV – Respecting Regional Special Events Grants
  - Provides consistent and equitable funding for community and cultural events

# Considerations

- Events with street closure costs routinely request additional funding to cover municipal service costs. (E.g. Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, The Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights)
- Estimated municipal costs for all events not including HRM civic events: \$250,000
- Switch - Established Community Festivals – Provides support for existing community events that are organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, are accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities
- Switch Open Streets
  - Total municipal costs for 2019 Halifax and Dartmouth events: \$21,030
  - Regional Event Grant: \$12,000
- Maximum grant award in this program is \$25,000

# Recommendation

That Halifax Regional Council approve an unbudgeted withdrawal from the Community and Events Reserve (Q621) in the amount of \$13,000 to be allocated to Switch Open Streets Event in the Regional Special Events program