

EXTENDED DANCE EVENT BYLAW

SUMMARY/ISSUE

A review of the Extended Dance Event Bylaw 34M2000 to ensure safe and secure environments to participants and neighbouring communities.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

2003 July 30, the S.P.C. on Operations and Environment approved amendments to the Extended Dance Event Bylaw 34M2000 with a graduated licensing system (OE-2003-68). The Committee further directed Administration to review this Bylaw by considering three different types of events: adults only, minors only and combined. As well, Administration was to examine any indemnification required by the City of Calgary on events held on City property and to include any potential cost recoveries relative to the Law Department's report (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the S.P.C. on Land Use, Planning and Transportation:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Direct the Law Department to prepare the necessary amendments to the Extended Dance Event Bylaw

INVESTIGATION

Other major municipalities across Canada, including Toronto and Vancouver, have been consulted with respect to their experiences with "Raves" and age segregation. The culture of "Rave" events is common to all ages and to introduce age segregated events would impose further Charter challenges to this Bylaw.

All licensed dance events that take place at City owned venues have a contract between The City of Calgary and the promoter which addresses any damages incurred to City owned property (Attachment 1).

Since the inception of the Extended Dance Event Bylaw in 2000, there has been a significant decrease in applications (Attachment 2). It is not clear if the Bylaw has significantly contributed to this decrease, as it may be the lack of suitable venues, increased costs to "Rave" promoters or the "Rave" phenomena may have run its course.

Administration's opinion is that the current bylaw is working effectively and may require minimal amendments, such as defining a "Rave", "Responsible Party", and a revision to increase the current threshold from 250 participants to 299 participants, in order to be consistent with the Alberta Fire Code.

Administration has reviewed the "Rave" industry and the challenges presented. It is Administration's recommendation that the age segregation and tiered licensing process not be introduced.

IMPLICATIONS

General

Although not completely satisfied with the current Bylaw, industry stakeholders support these minor amendments. They do not support recommendations dealing with age segregation, indemnification, and cost recovery to the City. All internal City of Calgary stakeholders support the current Bylaw and proposed amendments.

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Social

“Raves” typically include individuals of all ages and to introduce age segregation may result in an “underground” movement, which could compromise the health, safety and well being of all participants.

Environmental

None

Economic

None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Development and Building Approvals recovers the costs associated with the licence process, which currently is a non refundable, \$250 licence fee. The Law Department has advised that the Municipal Government Act does not expressly authorize council to require prepayment of projected expenses for Extended Dance Events held on private property.

RISKS

The support of industry stakeholders is vital to ensure the health and safety of “Rave” participants and the community. Without industry support, the “Rave” culture may move “underground”.

ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Calgary Law Department Memo on Indemnification.
2. Number of licensed Extended Dance Events since inception of Bylaw 34M2000.