Good morning Mayor and Council,

I understand that some of you have been contacted by the organizers of the Vaisakhi parade with concerns regarding the planning for this year’s event. I am writing to provide an update on a specific issue related to traffic management for the event; our Engineering staff have now resolved this matter.

By way of context, the issuance of permits for special events that impact traffic are subject to agreement with event organizers on a traffic management plan. The costs associated with the implementation of those plans are borne by the event, although the actual work involved can be done by City crews or third party traffic management firms. The decision to use City crews versus third parties is a function of the organizers’ preference as well as CoV capacity.

Specifically in relation to the Vaisakhi parade, there have been some changes to the traffic management requirements for this year based on public safety risks as assessed by VPD and necessary measures to mitigate those risks. Recent changes in provincial regulation have also imposed new requirements. As a further additional unique constraint for this year, the parade falls on the same weekend as the Sun Run creating a strain on the City staff and equipment required to implement traffic management plans.

In the planning meetings held in the months leading up to the event, our staff understood that the Vaisakhi parade organizers would seek a third party provider to implement the traffic management plan as their first option. City crews could be explored as a back-up.

Our team learned late last week that a third party provider had not been secured for the parade. Since then, our staff have developed a solution so that City crews can take on this work, making amendments to the traffic management plans and associated equipment and staffing deployment plans. We understand that the Parade organizers are comfortable with this solution.

Later this year, we will be coming to Council with an update to the Special Event Policy. That report will identify improvements to policies and procedures to better support events, enhance clarity and consistency and reduce potential for miscommunications such as this.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to connect with Jerry Dobrovolny or with me.

Many thanks,
Paul

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Waututh peoples.