



February 1, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Bacio Rosso Gourmet Cabaret Cirque Event in Queen Elizabeth Park**

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Dear Commissioners,

On November 20, 2017, the Park Board approved a request from Bacio Rosso Entertainment to host a gourmet cirque cabaret experience in the south parking lot at Queen Elizabeth Park. The purpose of this memo is to update you on the status of the neighborhood sound impacts related to this initiative, and the actions taken by Park Board staff to mitigate these issues.

### **Event Overview**

Bacio Rosso performances take place five days a week (Wednesday thru Sunday) until early March 2019. It is a smaller scale event, which has a maximum capacity of approximately 300 guests per evening:

- Performances take place between 7:00pm and 10:00pm Wednesday through Saturday, and from 6:00pm to 9:00pm on Sundays;
- Neighbourhood sound impacts were expected to be minimal (and compliant with City of Vancouver noise by-laws), based on sound meter readings at similar events in other locations.

### **Operations & Sound Impacts**

The event has been received very positively by many Vancouverites and operations are being delivered smoothly. Some complaints have been received from approximately 10 nearby residents attributable largely to noise:

- subsequent sound monitoring by Park Board staff confirmed that noise bleed from Bacio Rosso during the start-up of the event was higher than originally planned or projected;
- managing sound emissions can be a challenging task; it's believed that the higher noise levels from the event were attributable to several factors, including sound engineering, stage set-up/positioning, music/artist genre, performance time/day, as well as weather conditions and the geography of the region (the first four elements are controllable, the latter two less so);
- Park Board staff have worked closely with the organizer to address these impacts.; specific actions include:
  - Implementing an ongoing sound monitoring program which takes into account different weather conditions and neighborhood locations;
  - Working with the event organizer to reposition and insulate event equipment to minimize ancillary/contributory sound emissions; and
  - Working with the organizer to better calibrate the event at this location and minimize sound impacts on local residents; this process, which has included lowering the sound



volume of the performances/shows, has proved successful in ensuring the event sound emissions are largely compliant with City of Vancouver noise by-laws.

### **Next Steps**

Park Board staff will continue to measure and monitor sound emissions closely, and work with the event organizer to further refine event operations to ensure the event is fully compliant with City of Vancouver noise by-laws, thereby minimizing sound impacts on nearby residents.

- Park Board staff are responding to all resident questions/feedback/complaints related to the event; and
- Park Board staff will introduce a community engagement initiative in the near future to obtain broader feedback/comments from local area residents, park users, and event guests to inform future discussions and decisions regarding Bacio Rosso.

Further updates on this initiative, if required, will be provided to the Board as the event proceeds and new information becomes available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/os/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications  
PB Manager, Business Development