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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11, 2013
FROM:	WILLIAM C. COXHEAD MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION
SUBJECT:	ROCKIN' NEW YEARS EVE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Parks and Recreation the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to noise levels at the Rockin' New Year's Eve Event at Victoria Park.

- a) the attached proposed by-law (Appendix 'A'), being a by-law to provide for an exemption from sections 13.1(a) and 13.2 of the City of London Special Events Policies and Procedures Manual, **BE FORWARDED** to a public participation meeting to be held before the Community and Protective Services Committee on December 9, 2013.

It **BEING NOTED** that future exemptions will be considered as part of the annual review which will be informed by happenings at this years event.

BACKGROUND

Municipal Council at its session held on September 17, 2013, referred clause 9 of the 16th Report of the Community and Protective Services Committee to the Civic Administration to review how the City could work with the New Year's Eve event organizer to address the matter of a forfeiture of the noise deposit being issued under the Special Events Policy.

This event is to be hosted at Victoria Park on December 31, 2013. The evening is free to the public and includes: family skating, two children's entertainment shows, balloon creations, hats, noise makers, hot chocolate, coffee and a countdown with fireworks at 9pm for the children. Following the Children's fireworks an opening act takes the stage prior to the headliner which leads into a midnight countdown and second fireworks display off the roof top of City Hall. In 2012 an estimated 25,000 families and visitors from the surrounding areas attended the event.

The organizing Committee consists of members from the City of London, Rogers TV, Bob FM, Western Fair, as well as other committed individuals who volunteer their time.

Section 13.1(a) and 13.2 of the Special Events Policies and Procedures Manual states (in part);

- 13.1(a) All operators of special events having amplified sound will be required to post \$500 security (cash or letter of credit)...
- 13.2 All amplified concerts shall not exceed a sound pressure 90 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage, with the allowance for a maximum of 5 crescendos, per performance. The decibel level within the 30m zone, shall be at the discretion of the event operator, however sound equipment and speaker placement should be designed such that the 90 decibel is not exceeded at the 30m limit, with the allowance for a maximum of 5 crescendos, per performance.

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In the previous two years this event has exceeded the 90 decibel level, reaching 102.3 decibels in 2011 and 101.2 decibels in 2012 subsequently lost their 500 dollar noise deposit.

CONCLUSION

In order to avoid the forfeiture of the noise deposit required by the Special Events Policy an exemption is required to that policy. If a noise level exemption is granted for the New Year's Eve event at Victoria Park under 13.2 of the Special Events Policy and Procedure Manual the event will be in compliance of the Special Events policy and therefore not subject to the forfeiture of the noise deposit.

In order to facilitate Council wishes to eliminate the forfeiture of the noise deposit administration recommends an exemption to the Special Event Policy and Procedure Manual Noise Policy for the Rockin New Years Eve Event at Victoria Park as it is a unique winter event of short duration celebrated in cities throughout the world.

RECOMMENDED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
SCOTT STAFFORD DIVISION MANAGER PARKS AND COMMUNITY SPORTS	WILLIAM COXHEAD MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION

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