



Councillor Shawn Lewis
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Community & Protective Services Committee

RE: Parade Permits

Once again in 2019 I heard from veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion who are upset by the scheduling of the Santa Claus Parade in advance of Remembrance Day. It is not the first time this issue has come up (I refer you to the Letter to the Editor from the District Commander last year: <https://lfpres.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-nov-3>). However, to date, no action has been taken by previous city councils to address this concern despite assurances given by former members of councils to address it.

It is important to recognize that both the Hyde Park and Argyle BIAs are more than able to organize very successful Santa Claus parades AFTER Remembrance Day.

As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion myself, I think it is important that Remembrance Day and the lead up to it have a public focus on our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for us. It is also a vital time for the Legion to have that focus to draw attention to the annual poppy campaign.

In a busy society where we jump from Thanksgiving to Hallowe'en to Christmas, with retail stores often overlapping their promotions, is it really too much to ask that we hold off on public Christmas activities until we've paused to honour and remember those who have served to protect our freedoms to celebrate these holidays?

I recognize and appreciate parade organizers offering their assurances that this year would be the final year this would be an issue. However, organizers do change over time and I feel it is important for us to not simply rely on goodwill, but enshrine in our policies a respectful pause on other celebrations during Remembrance Week.

Therefore I will be bringing forward the following motion for your consideration:

That Civic Administration be directed to bring forward a policy to restrict the issuance of parade permits on public streets from November 1st to November 11th to those activities which are directly related to the honouring of Canada's veterans and organized in partnership with veterans organizations.

Sincerely,

Shawn Lewis
Ward 2 City Councillor