

Report to Corporate Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee
From: Cathy Saunders, City Clerk
Subject: City of London Days at the Budweiser Gardens – Showdown
in the Downtown October 22, 2022
Meeting on: November 1, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, the request to hold the Showdown in the Downtown – Knock Out Kidney Disease event on October 22, 2022, BE APPROVED as a City of London Day at the Budweiser Gardens; it being noted that five days remain for 2022, with no other requests pending.

Executive Summary

Municipal Council may grant up to five rent-free days per year to community organizations wishing to use Budweiser Gardens, subject to the conditions of Council's Policy. Showdown in the Downtown has requested a City of London Day at Budweiser Gardens. The organization was granted a rent-free day in 2020, but was unable to hold the event because of the pandemic. The last time the organization used a City of London Day was in 2014. Given that five City of London Days remain in 2022, the Civic Administration recommends approval.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Agreement with Bud Gardens

The City of London agreement with the London Civic Centre (LP) provides for five community days annually for community use at the Budweiser Gardens. The agreement makes the following provisions:

“The Landlord and the Tenant acknowledge and agree that each of them shall permit the City to have exclusive use of the Project (excluding areas over which the London Knights or other subtenants or licensees have exclusive possession) on five (5) days in each calendar year on sixty (60) days' notice prior to the Tenant and the Landlord on an entirely rent-free basis, except as set out in this subsection, for the purpose of community events which are primarily “not for profit” in nature, on dates which do not conflict or compete with events previously arranged or booked by the Tenant for the Project. The City shall be entitled to all ticket revenue and any revenue generated by special concession at such events, and all other revenue normally derived from the Project, such as from the food and beverage facilities, shall be included in Gross Revenue. The City shall pay for all out-of-pocket direct costs incurred by the Tenant for such occasion, such as the costs of staffing, security, janitorial and maintenance services. However, the City shall not be required to pay costs that the Tenant would have incurred anyway even if the City's event had not been held. For these purposes, “community events” means events which are primarily for civic purposes, high school, university or college sports and events, celebrations or charity events and shall include without limitation, high school and college graduations, community banquets and receptions and speaker programs but shall not include any events which have previously used the Project in accordance with normal rental or use arrangements”.

1.2 Council Policy

[City of London Days at the Budweiser Gardens Policy](#) establishes the general guidelines for utilization of up to five (5) City of London Days at the Budweiser Gardens for community-sponsored events on a “rent-free basis” provided the City or event sponsor pay for all direct and out-of-pocket expense incurred by the London Civic Centre Corporation.

1.3 Previous Reports to Council

[Corporate Services Committee Agenda, November 5, 2019, Item 2.6 - City of London Days at the Budweiser Gardens – Showdown in the Downtown](#)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Request from Showdown in the Downtown – Knock Out Kidney Disease

Showdown Event Manager, Francee Ender, submitted the attached request for a “rent free” day at the Budweiser Gardens for the Showdown in the Downtown event on October 22, 2022, noting that the organization had received Municipal Council’s approval for September 26, 2020, but had to cancel the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This event was also approved for a City of London Day in 2014.

On behalf of the Showdown in the Downtown – Knock Out Kidney Disease, Dr. Faisal Rehman, Event Founder and Professor of Medicine at London Health Sciences Centre, submitted the attached correspondence dated September 27, 2021, in support of the request.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

None

4.0 Key Issues and Considerations

4.1 City of London Days approved for 2022

Five City of London Days remain to be granted for 2022, and there are no other pending requests for the use of a City of London Day at the Budweiser Gardens.

5.0 Conclusion

The Civic Administration recommends approval of the request to use a City of London Day at the Budweiser Gardens for Showdown in the Downtown – Knock Out Kidney Disease on October 22, 2022.

Prepared by:	Cathy Saunders, City Clerk
Submitted by:	Cathy Saunders, City Clerk
Recommended by:	Cathy Saunders, City Clerk



City of London Days at Budweiser Gardens Policy

Please refer to the “City of London Days at Budweiser Gardens” Council Policy on page 2 for related guidelines. Requests may be mailed to: City Clerk, PO Box 5035, London, ON, N6A 4L9 or emailed to ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca. Phone enquiries should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at (519) 661-2489 Ext. 4937.

Organization information

Organization Name	Charitable registration number (if applicable)	Request Date (YYYYMMDD)
Showdown in the Downtown - Knock Out Kidney Disease	89478 1475 RR0001	2022-10-22

Contact information

Contact name	Title	
Francee Ender	Showdown Event Manager	
Address		
23-14 Doon Drive, London ON N5X 3P4		
Telephone number	/ extension	E-mail address
519-641-3434		enderf@sympatico.ca

Event details

Event Name	Date of event (YYYYMMDD)
Showdown in the Downtown - Knock Out Kidney Disease	2022-10-22

Event description (maximum 1,000 characters, attach additional details if needed)

‘Showdown In The Downtown’ is a Gala Night with an exceptional entertainment card of MMA BOUTS. The evening will intrigue MMA aficionados and provide a fabulous dining menu with a Gourmet Dinner and Auction for the VIP guests along with Fight Only Seats that will raise much needed funds in support of The Lilibeth Caberto Kidney Clinical Research Unit, Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies, Unity Project, The London Health Sciences Centre Surgical Epilepsy Program, Renal Patient Assistance Fund, Fierce N Fit Special Needs Boxing Incorporated, Making Mindfulness Matter (M3), PHSS Medical & Complex Care, S.A.L.T. Rescue Organization and London Health Sciences Foundation. Funds raised will be directed towards research that will help us fight kidney disease and improve patient outcomes after solid organ transplantation as well as support other local charities here in London.

Event eligibility

- City of London sponsored event
- Not-for-profit sporting event of provincial or national significance
- Major community-wide, not-for-profit civic event
- Major community-wide, not-for-profit charity event

Confirmations

- This event has not previously used the facility in accordance with normal rental or use arrangements
- Budweiser Gardens has confirmed that this date is available

CITY OF LONDON DAYS AT BUDWEISER GARDENS POLICY

1. Policy Statement
 - 1.1 This policy establishes the general guidelines for utilization of City of London Days at the Budweiser Gardens for the purpose of up to five community-sponsored events on a “rent-free basis” provided the City or event sponsor pay for all direct and out-of-pocket expense incurred by the London Civic Centre Corporation.
2. Definitions
 - 2.1 Not applicable.
3. Applicability
 - 3.1 This policy applies to event(s) which meet the eligibility criteria set out in this policy.
4. The Policy
 - 4.1 Eligible Events

The following types of events will be eligible:

 - a) City of London-sponsored events such as opening ceremonies for sporting events and major community celebrations, which have not previously used the facility in accordance with normal rental or use arrangements.
 - b) Not-for-profit sporting events which are of a provincial or national significance, including championships for high schools, colleges or universities located within the City of London, which have not previously used the facility in accordance with normal rental or use arrangements.
 - c) Major not-for-profit civic events which are celebrations or charity events of a local, community-wide nature and have a direct benefit to the London community, which have not previously used the facility in accordance with normal rental or use arrangements.
 - 4.2 Maximum Event Days
 - a) The City is limited to five event days each year.
 - b) No group can have more than one event day per year.
 - c) No group can have more than two event days over a five-year consecutive period, with the exception of the annual United Way Harvest Lunch and Campaign Kick-Off, unless an exemption is approved by the Municipal Council due to unique circumstances.
 - 4.3 Event Dates

The City of London shall provide sixty (60) days prior notice to Budweiser Gardens for use of the facility for a community-sponsored event, and the date of the event may not conflict or compete with events previously arranged or booked by Budweiser Gardens.
 - 4.4 Requirements of User Groups
 - a) The user group will be responsible for all direct and out-of-pocket expenses which are incurred.
 - b) The user group will be responsible for entering into an agreement with the Budweiser Gardens for use of the facility and all obligations arising from that agreement.
 - c) The user group will be responsible for all advertising, sponsorship and ticketing for the event subject to any conditions set out by the Budweiser Gardens.
 - 4.5 City Contact

The City Clerk will be the primary contact for user groups and will be delegated responsibility to administer this policy.
 - 4.6 Event Approval

City Council approval is required for all City of London Days at Budweiser Gardens events.



DR. FAISAL REHMAN
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Professor, Department of Medicine
Clerkship Director Medicine
Schulich School of Medicine, Western University
Consultant Nephrologist
Tel:(519) 663-3285 Fax (519) 663-3449



City of London
September 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Saunders,

My name is Dr. Faisal Rehman. I am a Nephrologist and Internal Medicine Specialist at The London Health Sciences Centre. I am also the Chair of a charitable organization called "Showdown in the Downtown". We are applying to lease the Budweiser Gardens on a rent free basis for our next event on October 22, 2022.

Our committee runs an annual charity event called Showdown in the Downtown that raises money for supporting research to find better treatments for patients undergoing heart, kidney, pancreas and liver transplants as well as better options for patients with kidney failure undergoing dialysis. We have two major charities that benefit from our event; The Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies and The Kidney Clinical Research Unit. Government Grants for supporting medical research have dropped to an all time low. We feel it is imperative that the community help support our researchers in their goals to find better treatments for our neighbors, friends and families. We have also heavily support other local causes such as the Unity Project to combat homelessness, PHSS which provides residential and medical support to patients with complex medical needs and the Mary J Wright Centre at Merrymount that finds ways to better the lives of children suffering from social isolation. All of our fundraising benefits local initiatives in London, Ontario.

The numbers of Canadians awaiting solid organ transplantation far outweighs the number of available organs. Many of our patients die while on the waiting list for a solid organ transplant. We need to support research that improves accessibility for our patients on the wait list. Also, once transplanted, these organs do not last forever and many of our patients require a second or even a third organ transplant. We need to support research to find treatments that prevent acute and chronic rejection of these organs. Matthew Mailing was a young man who passed away soon after receiving a heart transplant in London. When the situation was dire and his heart transplant was not working as planned, he wanted to make sure that other patients in his situation would not go through this difficult time. When Matthew Mailing passed away in 2003 at the age of 34 from complications related to heart transplant surgery, he bequeathed one-third of his estate to support our Multi-Organ Transplant Program. Matthew's gift became the catalyst for establishing a world-class facility in transplant studies - The Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies. Led by lead investigator Dr. Anthony Jevnikar, the nearly 9,000-square-foot Mailing Centre is promoting accelerated translation of basic research in transplantation to improve patient care. Scientists and clinician-scientists have a primary interest in transplantation such as novel immunotherapy, tissue protection and advanced microsurgical techniques.



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More than 2 million Canadians suffer from kidney failure or some form of kidney-related disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney stones. Many patients with kidney disease end up requiring hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. These treatments have improved significantly over the last several years but still negatively impact the quality of life of our patients. The Kidney Clinical Research Unit (KCRU) is a 4000 square foot facility located at London Health Sciences Centre. This facility is dedicated to clinical research in the quantitative health sciences. The KCRU consists of a diverse research community with people from many different academic and occupational backgrounds. Currently the KCRU coordinates over 40 local, national and international studies (clinical trials, observational studies, research synthesis, administrative database analyses, and economic evaluation). As well as having a strong local research community, the KCRU has developed an ever growing network of national and international research and healthcare connections to collaborate and share information with in order to increase knowledge of kidney health issues. The KCRU continues to move forward and grow with the hope that the efforts of research will improve the lives and health of people with kidney health issues.

The Showdown in the Downtown is annual event that showcases combat sports at its best. The previous 5 events have showcased boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing. We have had International Competitions between Canada and Ireland as well as Canada at The United States. One year we also featured two World Title Kickboxing matches. We have raised over \$2.4 million for our charities over the last 12 years.

On October 22, 2022, we will hold a professional mixed martial arts event at Budweiser Garden. Tickets will cost a modest \$50 and we hope to have several thousand people from the community attend. This will be an outstanding event featuring some of the great athletes from London Ontario battling other athletes from North America. By partnering with this event and leasing Budweiser Gardens on a "rent free basis", you would be supporting all of our patients in London who suffer from kidney disease or who are awaiting a solid organ transplant.

Thank you for considering our application.

Sincerely,

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Professor of Medicine
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Western University
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry



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