

**REPORT TO:** Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** May 15, 2023

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gloria MacNeil, Director of Enforcement, 519-741-2200 ext. 7952

**PREPARED BY:** Gloria MacNeil, Director of Enforcement, 519-741-2200 ext. 7952

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** 9, 10

**DATE OF REPORT:** April 18, 2023

**REPORT NO.:** CSD-2023-168

**SUBJECT:** Noise Exemption – Downtown Special Events

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That an exemption to Chapter 450 (Noise) of the City of Kitchener Municipal Code be granted for the Downtown Special Events, as contained on “Schedule A” to Report No. CSD-2023-168

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Special Events staff have begun organizing the events calendar for the 2023 season taking place in the downtown.
- Many of the scheduled events will include amplified music and/or elevated noise levels, however all events are scheduled to end by 11pm.
- Events are currently scheduled from June thru December 2023, the events schedule is attached as “Schedule A”.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Special Events office is involved in coordinating a series of special events in and around the downtown area, including the Civic Square and Victoria Park. It is a primary focus of the City to provide events that will create urban vitality and attract more people to the downtown core. Many of the events involve amplified music or other forms of noise.

Typically each year, the list of events is presented to Council to identify those which will require a noise exemption due to the nature of the event. As such, staff have requested permission for various events taking place from June to December 2023. The list of downtown events is attached as “Schedule A” to this report.

**REPORT:**

Staff are excited to welcome back a wide range of concerts, events and festivals from well-loved favourites to exciting new offerings.

By-law Enforcement and Special Events staff have worked with groups in the past such as the Victoria Park Working Group and nearby residents to discuss their concerns and to put controls

in place to manage and mitigate issues that have previously arisen. As a result, we have had nominal complaints.

Staff recognize there has been a significant increase of residential condos which have been built and/or occupied in the downtown over the past two years and are proactively working to reach out to the building owners/property managers to provide their residents with information regarding these events and to notify them in advance of dates, times and type of events that will be taking place within the downtown and Victoria Park.

Special Events staff will be present at all events, which provides Enforcement staff a point of contact in the event an issue arises that needs to be addressed.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports the delivery of core services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

The Special Events and Communications staff have developed a detailed communications plan to build awareness of these events throughout the Downtown and across the City. In addition, a vast number of volunteers and external stakeholders are involved in the wide array of events.

**ACKNOWLEDGED BY:**

Michael May, General Manager Community Services Department & DCAO

Appendix: Schedule A, 2023 Noise Exemptions