

# Staff Report



Community Services Department

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 20, 2026

**SUBMITTED BY:** Steve Vrentzos, Director of Enforcement, 519-783-8548

**PREPARED BY:** Steve Vrentzos, Director of Enforcement, 519-783-8548

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

**DATE OF REPORT:** March 27, 2026

**REPORT NO.:** CSD-2026-138

**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 all Downtown Special events**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Special Events staff have begun organizing the events calendar for the 2026 season which will be held in various locations throughout the downtown core and Victoria Park.
- Many of the scheduled events will include amplified music and/or elevated noise levels, however all events are scheduled to end by 11pm.
- Events will take place throughout the remainder of the 2026 calendar year.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Special Events division coordinates a range of events each year throughout the downtown area, including locations such as Carl Zehr Square and Victoria Park. These events are intended to enhance urban vitality and draw residents and visitors to the downtown core. While the nature of these events varies, many include amplified music or other noise generating activities.

## **REPORT:**

Special Events and Downtown BIA staff look forward to the return of a diverse range of concerts, events and festivals for the 2026 event season, including both established favourites and new experiences.

In previous years, Special Events staff created a list of events for the coming year, which was then presented to Council, identifying the events requiring a noise exemption. Under the revised approach, any event taking place in the downtown core or Victoria Park that are led or supported by City or Downtown BIA staff were captured under a Downtown Special Events noise exemption for 2025. Rather than relying on a fixed list of events attached to the report, scheduled events were posted on the City's website, allowing information to be updated as details unfolded and became available.

This approach works well and provides staff with flexibility to add or adjust events throughout the season as needed. Staff will be taking the same approach as we did in 2025, requesting a noise exemption for all City or BIA supported events and maintaining an updated list of events on the City's website as they are approved.

Special Events and Downtown BIA staff will provide By-law Enforcement staff with a contact person for each event to ensure there is a point of contact should any issues arise that require attention.

Over the years, By-law Enforcement and Special Events staff have worked with nearby residents and neighbourhood groups to discuss concerns and implement controls to manage and mitigate potential issues. As a result, the number of complaints has been nominal.

Staff recognize the increase in residential condominiums within the downtown area and will continue to communicate event information to property owners, property managers and residents. This will include advance notification of event dates, times, and the type of event taking place within the downtown and Victoria Park.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports the delivery of core services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Staff in Special Events and Communications 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.

**APPROVED BY:** Michael May, DCAO