



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

**REPORT TO COMMITTEE**

**TO:** General Purposes Committee

**DATE:** March 9, 2000

**FROM:** George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer

**FILE:** 8060-20-7123

**RE: EVENT REGULATION ( RAVE) BYLAW 7123**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That Bylaw 7123 which regulates late night events ( Raves) be introduced and be given first, second and third reading.

George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
R.C.M.P. ....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Law.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

On February 7, 2000, General Purposes Committee directed staff to prepare a Bylaw and process for regulating late night dance party events. Committee also directed staff to seek input on the Bylaw and process from a focus group of affected stakeholders.

In accordance with Committee's direction, a team consisting of the RCMP, Law and Zoning staff created a draft Bylaw, process and an application form to help address the public safety and neighbourhood disruption issues raised during the monitoring period. On March 7, 2000, staff met with approximately 20 persons from the rave party industry to explain the process and to receive their input on the draft Bylaw, and application form.

The proposed Bylaw and application form are attached to this report.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Raves appear to be fact of life, but are inherently dangerous due to the number of persons who attend and the drug use that can accompany these events. The RCMP have stated that they would prefer that rave parties are banned in Richmond. However, if rave parties are going to continue, the RCMP does support the enactment of the proposed regulations.

### ANALYSIS

The Bylaw and accompanying application form are designed so that it is an efficient (10 day) process, if the venue has been approved and the application is filled out completely and accurately. The Bylaw, process and application form builds upon the strengths and attempts to address the short-comings of the regulations currently used in Toronto, Vancouver and San Fransico.

The staff team reviewed the draft Bylaw and application form with the representatives from the rave industry to receive their feedback and to ensure that there is a clear understanding of what it is expected as part of the proposed process. The highlights of the bylaw and the application form are listed below. An explanation of any changes that occurred as a result of the meeting with the affected stakeholders is included in brackets.

1. The promoter of a Rave must get a permit which will cost \$100.00.
2. The promoter and all independent vendors that sell merchandise at the events must have valid Richmond Business Licenses.
3. For the extra police required the promoter will pay the sum of \$520 for each 250 persons or portion thereof based on the fire capacity of the venue and current police costs. Deployment of the officers is at the sole discretion of the RCMP Watch Commander. Payment for additional RCMP officers will not be accepted in lieu of security personnel. (*The original cost suggested was a minimum of \$1400 for the first 500 patrons and then \$700 for each additional 250 persons. For a venue with a 1000 persons fire capacity, the cost under the proposed Bylaw would be \$2,080.00, compared to the original suggested amount of \$2,800.00.*)

*Considerable discussion ensued at the meeting regarding the policing costs, and several of the promoters present indicated that the number of police required should be based on the number of persons attending the event rather than on the fire capacity of the building. After the meeting, the staff team discussed this concern and decided to adjust the ratio, but still believe that the ratio should be based on the fire capacity of the building because it would be extremely difficult to confirm the number of tickets that will be sold and how many will be attending prior to the event).*

4. The promoter will have to include details on such matters as:
  - (a) provisions for first aid services
  - (b) entrance and line control
  - (c) the name of the Provincially licensed security firm planned to be used
  - (d) post-party neighbourhood clean-up plans.
  - (e) the name of a contact person for the promoter and the venue.
  - (f) expected age range of the expected clientele
  - (g) proposed hours of operation
  - (i) type of entertainment
  - (j) sound-proofing plans
  - (k) parking arrangements and transportation options to and from the event
  - (l) information on late night dance events that they have organized before.
5. The promoter must ensure there is an adequate supply of free potable water for all those in attendance.
6. No permit will be issued if the promoter, security firm has been previously involved in a rave which did not have a permit issued under this bylaw.
7. The Bylaw restricts raves to the current facilities that have hosted raves in the past, but, as the city has done with electronic amusements centres, would consider other venues. However other venues would require a bylaw amendment. *(Although many of the promoters present did not support this, staff still believe that this regulation is important to include in order to ensure that any other facilities considered are safe and will not be disruptive to the surrounding neighbourhood. This regulation will also provide neighbourhood notification through the bylaw amendment process ).*
8. The effective date of the Bylaw is May 1, 2000. *(A phase in period for the Bylaw was requested. The staff team felt this was reasonable request, and as a result added a phase in clause in the Bylaw).*
9. All organizers will agree to provide space for community-based drug and health awareness projects. *(A couple of the promoters suggested that this should be added similar to what is done in Toronto).*

In addition to the above, some of the representatives present requested the following:

- a) That the clause be removed from the Bylaw which prohibits them from advertising the event prior to receiving a permit. They indicated that in some cases the parties are advertised through "word of mouth", so it would be extremely difficult to commit to this clause.

After the meeting, staff removed this clause from the draft bylaw, but added a clause to the application form that states if the promoter does not receive a permit, he/she will be fully responsible for dealing with ticket holders.

- b) Requests were made for a quicker approval process if for some reason, a promoter needed a venue quickly to accommodate an overflow problem from another rave party in Richmond or Vancouver. Staff have not included this clause, because there is no guarantee that the adequate resources will be available on short notice to review the application and for policing. Furthermore, the proposed process is a maximum of 10 days compared to Vancouver, which is 6 weeks.
- c) Request were made for consideration to be given to having alcohol served in a secured area at the raves. The staff team do not support this.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The application fee and payment for extra policing should ensure that Raves are not a cost to the City.

#### CONCLUSION

The staff team believe that the proposed regulations are fair, and will help to ensure patron safety, minimize neighbourhood impacts, help to cover public enforcement costs and provide the City with the necessary authority to deal with events held in unsafe conditions. The Bylaw responds to the issues raised during the 6 monitoring period, and has resulted based on discussions with representatives from the industry, and staff including the RCMP. The Bylaw should assist in allowing the rave parties to continue but under strict regulations.

Lauren Melville  
Manager, Policy & Research

Paul Kendrick  
City Solicitor



# Zoning Department

7577 Elmbridge Way  
Richmond, BC V6X 2Z8

**City of Richmond** Main (604) 276-4000 Fax (604) 276-4177

Please Print

All applications must be submitted to the Zoning Department at Richmond City Hall. For further information on the application process please call Alan Clark, Manager of Zoning, at 276-4199.

## APPLICATION FOR LATE NIGHT DANCE (RAVE) EVENTS

1. Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Applicant Information:

a) Applicant (promoter) name: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Driver License No. or birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Postal Code

d) Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Cell Pager

e) Applicant (promoter) Business License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

f) If Incorporated: Date of Incorporation: \_\_\_\_\_

Incorporation No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Directors' names: \_\_\_\_\_

g) Names and contact numbers (cell and/or pagers) of persons who will be on site at the event, and who will have direct authority and responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

h) Please list below the name and Business License Numbers of any companies or individuals that will be selling merchandise at the event (eg. water, food, necklaces etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Event Information:

a) Address of proposed event: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Age group of expected clientele: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Proposed hours of operation: \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Type of entertainment: \_\_\_\_\_
- e) What are your plans for sound proofing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f) Maximum fire/patron capacity of the facility: \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Maximum number of clientele to be allowed into the event: \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Please describe the transportation options to and from the event (eg. shuttle bus service):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- i) Please describe automobile parking arrangements for your event patrons (eg. number and location): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Required Attachments:

- a) Have you organized a late night dance party (rave) before? Yes  No   
If yes, background information on the similar events you have managed is attached to this application.
- b) A non-refundable processing application fee of \$100.00 is attached to this application.
- c) A letter from the facility owner indicating their approval of the event is attached to this application form.
- d) Two copies of a security plan that meets industry standards are attached to this application form which includes:
- Name and Business License No. of the security company. (Note: all security companies MUST be licensed by the Province).
  - Provisions and details on first aid, entrance and line control, and post neighbourhood clean up measures.

#### 5. Promoter Commitments

I/We agree to the following:

- Ensuring that potable water will be available free of charge to all participants.
- To cover the costs of additional RCMP officers. (The sum of \$520.00 for the first 500 persons or portion thereof and \$520.00 for each additional 250 persons or portion thereof. Payment will be based on the maximum number of clientele to be permitted to enter as set out in 3(g). Deployment of the officers is at the sole discretion of the RCMP Watch Commander. Payment for additional RCMP officers will not be accepted in lieu of security personnel. Payment for the additional RCMP is due prior to issuance of the Permit.)
- To provide space at the event for community based drug and health awareness displays.
- To accept full responsibility for dealing with ticket holders in the event that a permit is not approved by the City of Richmond.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



*"All your banquet needs at one place"*

March 14, 2000

via fax (604)276-4222

City of Richmond  
City Hall  
Richmond, BC

Attention: Lauren Melville, Manager Policy and Research

Dear Sir:

**Re: Bylaw 7123 - Event Regulation (Raves)**

Further to our meeting March 7, 2000 and your faxed memo dated March 10, 2000, I provide the following comments regarding the above referenced draft bylaw:

**Section 4**

- Certain promoter's book venues in other municipalities but due to better than expected tickets sales a change to a larger venue becomes an option.
- Our company would like to incorporate a fast track approval application permit for existing approved facilities. I suggest an increase in the application fee by \$150.00, totaling \$250.00 if within 5 days a permit is required.

**Section 5 (c)**

- From review of the late night events for the period May 3, 1999 to December 31, 1999, police were rarely called by security to deal with situations at our facilities.
- The number of extra police officers required per your draft bylaw is too high. Per my discussion with Scott at ER Plus, we confirm police officers should not be required for the first 600 people and two officers should be required for above 600 people.

## Section 8

- This section is limiting the growth for late night events in Richmond to just two facilities, Riverside Banquet Hall and The Palace.
- City of Richmond solicitor Paul Kendrick is aware of our company's interest in other facilities in the municipality.
- Also this section does not make sense. Why would the bylaw limit the area to over night parties, when the application permit could be denied if all the conditions are not met by the promoter.
- As discussed, a two-application process would alleviate this concern.

## Grace Period

- Our company has bookings for late night parties to June 30, 2000. We have been advising promoters of future functions, a bylaw is currently being discussed and drafted and most likely will be passed before their event.
- By making the bylaw effective May 1, 2000 some promoters would cancel there function due to the financial impact imposed by the draft bylaw.
- I am recommending the new bylaw be effective for over night parties after July 1, 2000. This grace period will not effective any current bookings at our facilities.

## Application Form Questions

- The question relating to parking and transportation caused a concern to our company. The main parking for our facilities is street parking. We have not had any problems with our neighbors that we could not work out and negotiate.
- For the period May 3, 1999 to December 31, 1999, we incorporated shuttle buses only once in the late night events. The neighbors are very pleased with the changes we have implemented since May 3, 1999.
- The current draft bylaw could deny a permit application if the promoter does not provide adequate parking and/or transportation.
- Since our facilities have had various late night parties, we recommend deleting this question in the application permit for existing venues.



**Peter German**

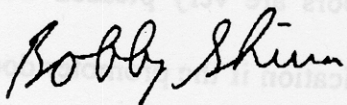
- The comments made by Peter German in the meeting summarized his concerns as following:
  1. Vandalism to property
  2. Theft from vehicles
  3. Accidents.
- I believe the vandalism to property is reduced and/or our company is dealing with the neighbors direct. Per my discussions with various neighbors in the area, they are pleased with changes implemented from May 3, 1999.
- The theft from vehicles in the area could be reduced by bicycle patrol by the security company. We only used bicycle patrol once since May 3, 1999 but I believe the promoters would be respective making bicycle patrol mandatory on the application permit.
- There is an accident on the corner of No. 6 road and River Road each weekend whether from late night parties and/or receptions. I recommend the City of Richmond install flashing signs on River Road to reduce the amount of accidents in this corner.

Our company has been cooperative in all dealings with the City of Richmond and would strongly recommend the above comments be incorporated in draft bylaw.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact us.

Regards,

**Riverside Palace**



Per: Bobby Ghirra  
Office Administration

Cc: Paul E. Kendrick, City Solicitor via fax (604) 278-5139

CITY OF RICHMOND

**EVENT REGULATION (RAVES) BYLAW NO. 7123**

The Council of the City of Richmond, in open meeting, enacts as follows:

**PART ONE – GENERAL PROHIBITION**

- 1.1 A person must not hold a **late night event** without first obtaining an event permit issued in accordance with the provisions of Part Two.

**PART TWO – EVENT PERMITS**

**2.1 Event Permit Application Procedure**

2.1.1 A **promoter** wishing to organise or hold a **late night event** must complete an event application provided for that purpose, by the **City**.

2.1.2 The event application specified in subsection 2.1.1, must:

- (a) be signed by the **promoter**;
- (b) be presented to the **Manager, Zoning** at least 10 days prior to the event; and,
- (c) be accompanied by an application fee of \$100.

**2.2 Event Permit Requirements**

2.2.1 The **Manager, Zoning** will only issue a **late night event** permit for events which are held at a location specified in section 2.3, provided:

- (a) the premises continue to meet all relevant fire and health regulations; and remain adequately sound-proofed to ensure that no persons other than those in attendance will be impacted by the event;
- (b) a payment is made, prior to the issuance of the event permit, for additional policing services, on the basis of:
  - (i) a minimum of 1 officer for the first 500 persons; and
  - (ii) a further officer for each additional 250 persons, or portion thereof,

up to the maximum capacity of the facility, and as stated in the event application;

- (c) there is an adequate security plan in place for the **late night event** which includes provisions for:
  - (i) first aid;
  - (ii) entrance control to ensure that alcohol or illicit drugs are not brought in the premises during a **late night event**;
  - (iii) outside inspection and clean up in the vicinity of the premises during and after the event;
  - (iv) line control including ensuring that patrons are not permitted to re-enter the event after they have left;
  - (v) the employment of a security firm licensed by the Government of British Columbia;
- (d) there is provision for an adequate supply of potable water at no cost to those in attendance.

2.2.2 A permit for a **late night event** will not be issued to any **promoter**:

- (a) who does not have a valid business licence to hold such **late night event**, nor
- (b) whose application indicates the employment or hiring of any person or company connected with a previous **late night event**, which was operated in contravention of any **City** bylaw or Provincial statutes or regulations.

### 2.3 Late Night Event – Approved Locations

2.3.1 Only the following locations are approved for **late night events**:

- (a) 14500 River Road; and
- (b) 14431 Knox Way.

## PART THREE - INTERPRETATION

3.1 In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

**CITY** means the City of Richmond.

**LATE NIGHT EVENT** means a commercial dance or other entertainment performance or other event where 20 or more persons are assembled at any time between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and where:

- (a) the dance, performance or event is held for the purpose of gain or profit;
- (b) tickets are sold or an entrance or attendance fee is charged for persons to attend; and

- (c) music, noise or sound of any kind or source, including but not limited to amplified recorded or computer generated music, amplified recorded or computer generated sounds, live music, sound or band music is performed or played.

**MANAGER, ZONING**

means the Manager, Zoning in the Urban Development Division of the **City**.

**PROMOTER**

means the person who has the financial responsibility for the **late night event** including contracting with entertainers, security firm, renting the facility, advertising the **late night event** and collecting gate receipts.

**PART FOUR - SEVERABILITY AND CITATION**

**4.1** If any part, section, subsection, clause, or sub clause of this bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

**4.2** This bylaw is cited as "**Event Regulation (Raves) Bylaw No. 7123**".

FIRST READING

\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING

\_\_\_\_\_

THIRD READING

\_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK