

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: December 31, 2018

TITLE: Special Event Permit Application – Tour De Palm Springs

Prepared by: Jim Henson, Deputy Chief

RECOMMENDATION

Due to the unanticipated and unbudgeted financial impact, the number of Public Safety Officers that would be needed to ensure safety on the route (which would remove them from their normal patrol function), and the narrow road widths and main corridor route that would significantly impact the community, staff is recommending denial of the Tour De Palm Springs Special Event Permit Application.

DISCUSSION

On November 27, 2019, Michael Sterns (Executive Director, Tour De Palm Springs) wrote a letter to Daniel Porras (Public Works Director) as well as submitting a Special Event Permit Application (Exhibit 1) for the 2019 Tour De Palm Springs charity cycling event. This event is scheduled to occur on February 09, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 am and 11:00 am. The permit does not address road closures, as the riders in this event are directed to obey the rules of the road. In the past, this charity ride has primarily utilized Dillon Road. Last year, the police department deployed three officers to assist with traffic control at the intersections of Dillon Road / Little Morongo and Palm Drive / Dillon Road. This year, the event organizers are proposing a route change.

The route they have chosen within Desert Hot Springs will virtually cut the city in half and will potentially cause conflicts for our residents and business owners (Exhibit 2). This route will affect travel in and out of the City as well as make it difficult to access businesses on the west side of Palm Drive. The Department will need to deploy 14 officers, 1 Sergeant, and all available Citizens on Patrol members to adequately provide traffic direction at the fourteen major intersections within this route. The route they have chosen, within the city limits, is as follows:

The riders will enter the City northbound Worsley Road and will cross Pierson Boulevard. They will continue northbound Worsley until they reach Indian Canyon Drive where they will turn right onto southbound Indian Canyon Drive to Pierson Boulevard. At Pierson, the riders will left turn and head east to Palm Drive. The riders will turn right onto southbound Palm Drive where they will continue to ride south to Dillon Road where they will turn left and proceed out of the City.

These are the fourteen intersections that will require officers to provide traffic direction:

- 1) Worsley / Pierson
- 2) Worsley / Indian Canyon
- 3) Indian Canyon / Mission Lakes
- 4) Indian Canyon / Pierson
- 5) Pierson / Little Morongo
- 6) Pierson / West
- 7) Pierson / Cactus
- 8) Pierson / Palm
- 9) Palm / Hacienda

- 10) Palm / Ironwood
- 11) Palm / Two Bunch
- 12) Palm / Camino Campanero
- 13) Palm / Camino Aventura
- 14) Palm / Dillon

There are several areas of concern associated with the route the ride will take:

- 1) Indian Canyon is a 55-mph speed limit roadway and has very narrow shoulders.
- 2) Pierson Boulevard between Indian Canyon and Little Morongo is a narrow two-way road.
- 3) Palm Drive has just been made a "safety corridor."

As I have previously mentioned, the potential for traffic related conflicts are a significant issue to the residents, businesses, as well as place a large burden on the police department. It would cause all sworn personnel to work November 09, 2019 and if something significant happened in the City we would have a difficult time responding to that incident. In closing, I have added the "Yelp Review" as well as photographs that were taken of past races. In some of the reviews the riders talk about specific issues dealing with the traffic and in the photographs, you can see the impact the riders have on city streets (Exhibit 3).

As discussed above a total of 14 officers and 1 Sergeant would be needed to safely conduct this event if the present route is accepted. The average per Officer cost would be \$122.59 per hour with the Sergeant cost being \$173.85 per hour. With the event being a total of 5 hours, the personnel cost would total \$9450.55. If the city were to use 2 maintenance technicians, to help close the city streets, at a cost of 103.46 per hour, the total for five hours would be \$1034.60. The total personnel costs would total \$10,485.15. Tops N Barricades might be an option, however, with the time frame that exists and the additional cost to the City this option was not investigated. Even with Tops N Barricades the police department staff would still have to be utilized.

FISCAL IMPACT

The funding proposed for this event was not approved as a part of the 2018-2019 budget process. If the City Council moves forward with this special event and the total budget for salary and benefits in fund (245-4223) is exceed for this fiscal year, any additional funding would have to come from the General fund in the form of a transfer using Fund Balance.

EXHIBITS

- 1) Tour De Palm Springs Letter and Special Event Permit Application
- 2) Goggle Map Route of the Areas affected
- 3) Tour De Palm Springs Yelp reviews and photos