



**City of Kingston  
Report to Council  
Report Number 16-138**

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**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services  
**Resource Staff:** Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services  
**Date of Meeting:** May 17, 2016  
**Subject:** Kingston Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival 2016

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**Executive Summary:**

The Recreation & Leisure Services Department has received a request from Impact Events Group to host a 2016 Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival to take place on the grounds of the Kingston Memorial Centre from September 9 to 11, 2016. A new event in 2013, the Kingston Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival attracted close to ten thousand people. In 2014 the attendance grew to almost fifteen thousand and that number was maintained for the 2015 event.

The Festival attracts Kingston residents and tourists who will taste award winning ribs and chicken as well as sample Ontario craft beers. Other food, including healthy choices and non-alcoholic drinks will also be offered. The family friendly event will include a weekend of live, local entertainment. The community-focused festival will support Partners in Mission Food Bank as admission is free, but donations will be accepted at the gate.

According to the current City of Kingston Municipal Alcohol Policy approved in 2006, it is mandatory that beer and coolers are served in plastic and/or paper cups. Impact Events Group has organized over twenty Ribfest & Craft Beer Festivals and gives participants a pilsner glass for their sampling. The glass is a souvenir and it minimizes the amount of garbage produced. The organizers meet all other requirements outlined in the City of Kingston Municipal Alcohol Policy Standards.

**Recommendation:**

**That** Council designate the “Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival”, being held from September 9 to 11, 2016, on the grounds of the Memorial Centre, as an event of municipal significance, to which Special Occasion Permits may be issued by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario; and

**That** Council authorize an exemption to the City of Kingston Municipal Alcohol Policy to allow a souvenir glass to be used at the “Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival”.

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**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives

Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services

Not required

Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston

Not required

Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

Not required

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**Options/Discussion:**

Impact Events Group has fifteen years' experience running over twenty Ribfest & Craft Beer Festivals. They have organized like festivals in other communities such as Kitchener, Hamilton, Peterborough and Toronto and three years ago expanded their portfolio to include Kingston. Following the success of last three events, organizers would like to continue to make this an annual event.

The Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival combines the best in craft beer and BBQ, allowing people to savour chicken and ribs while enjoying samples of craft beer and listening to live, local entertainment. The festival will include Ontario Craft Breweries and professional ribbers from across North America who will compete for the rights to 'Best Sauce', 'Best Chicken' and 'Best Ribs'. Other food, including healthy choices, will be available. Admission is free, but donations to the Partners in Mission Food Bank will be accepted at the gate. Below are the results of the donations for the previous three years:

- 2015 - \$2,368.55 and three thousand and ten pounds of food
- 2014 - \$3,603.10 and one thousand eight hundred and thirty five pounds of food
- 2013 - \$1,492.99 and one thousand thirty four pounds of food

Those nineteen years and older who wish to participate in the craft beer sampling will pay \$6 to receive a wristband that is good for the weekend. They will receive a four ounce souvenir glass to be used for the sampling of ten microbreweries with over fifty different brands of craft beer available. Due to the nature of the event, anyone under the age of nineteen must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Impact Events Group hires three staff to manage clean up and their sole responsibility is to remove garbage and patrol the area in case of any broken glass. Impact Events Group also has its own security on site.

**Municipal Alcohol Policy**

The City of Kingston's Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) was approved by Council in 2006. The policy provides for responsible management practices at functions or events held at City of Kingston facilities, properties or areas where alcohol is available under the authority of a Special Occasion Permit or a Caterer's Endorsement. The City has developed this policy as a means of enhancing and promoting the social enjoyment and physical safety of everyone who uses these facilities and areas, while at the same time avoiding or minimizing any alcohol-related liability issues. The following provisions will be implemented at the Kingston Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival:

- Persons under the legal drinking age are prohibited from adult events where alcoholic beverages are served unless accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian.
- All servers have attended Smart Serve®; an Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) recognized server-training course and their names will be submitted to the City at least ten working days prior to the event.
- Non-alcoholic drinks will be available at no charge or less than half the price of the lowest-priced alcoholic beverage. Water, soft drinks and lemonade will be available at the Kingston Ribfest & Craft Beer Festival.

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The MAP states the need for promoting safe transportation. Impact Events Group has posted the following statement on their website: "There is parking on-site but the best bet is either cab or public transit. This will avoid any chance of drinking and driving". The MAP states that the organizer must provide an insurance certificate that indicates comprehensive general liability coverage in an amount not less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000), which includes a host liquor liability endorsement in an amount acceptable to the City of Kingston. The certificate of insurance must also indicate the specific event, location and date that it is being provided for. The City of Kingston must be named as an additional insured on the policy for that event. Impact Events Group will provide their certificate of insurance for five million dollars (\$5,000,000) at least ten working days prior to the scheduled event. Impact Events Group will enter into a facility booking permit similar to other facility or park bookings in City owned facilities. The previous three events have gone well without incident and the popularity seems to be growing.

The MAP states that it is mandatory that beer and coolers are served in plastic and/or paper cups. Impact Events Group has used a glass for the craft beer sampling for fourteen years without incident. The glass is a souvenir and collected annually, encouraging people to revisit the event. The glass also provides a sustainable solution as it saves on a significant amount of garbage. If the glass was not provided, each brewery would need to provide single use plastic sampling cups. Participants use the same glass all weekend so the glass is considered an environmentally conscious alternative.

**Special Occasion Permit**

In order for an organization to receive a Special Occasion Permit issued by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Impact Events Group must receive declaration from Council that the event is of municipal significance.

**Existing Policy/By-Law:**

The City of Kingston Municipal Alcohol Policy

**Notice Provisions:**

Not applicable

**Accessibility Considerations:**

The event will be accessible.

**Financial Considerations:**

Not applicable

**Contacts:**

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services 613-546-4291 extension 1231

Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services 613-546-4291 extension 1815

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**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Alan McLeod, Senior Legal Counsel, Legal Services Department

Jaclyn Grimmon, Manager, Recreation Programs, Recreation & Leisure Services Department

Nancy Ruel, Supervisor, Special Events & Marketing, Recreation & Leisure Services Department

**Exhibits Attached:**

Exhibit A Formal Request from Event Manger



c/o Impact Events Group Inc.  
81 Lennox Crescent  
Kitchener, ON N2N 2P5  
Tel: 519.579.3017  
Fax: 519.570.2492  
E: [guy@impac-eventsgroup.ca](mailto:guy@impac-eventsgroup.ca)

April 5, 2016

Mr. Luke Follwell  
Director, Recreation & Leisure Services  
City of Kingston  
216 Ontario Street  
Kingston, ON  
K7L 2Z3

Dear Luke:

This letter is a formal request that the 4<sup>th</sup> annual ***Kingston Ribfest & Craft Beer Show*** event being held September 9-11, be deemed an event of Municipal Significance. This is required for Impact Events Group Inc. to obtain a Special Occasion Permit for the event.

Even with very inclement weather in 2015, the event maintained attendance of almost 15,000 so the community is continuing to respond in a positive way to the event. Impact Events Group has a long history of creating and producing successful events including the Downtown Kitchener Ribfest & Craft Beer Show which is celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and draws over 35,000 attendees from across Waterloo Region and beyond. Our goal is to do the same in Kingston.

A copy of the Festival's Security & Emergency Response Plan will be forwarded once it's approved by the AGCO.

Best Regards,

Guy Exley  
Ribfest Event Manager