

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 16, 2012
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Authorize staff, for a period of three years, to issue Street Event Encroachment Permits to Promotion of Albany High School Sports (PAHS) to allow a street closure for the Albany Community Triathlon and to the Berkeley Bicycle Club for the annual Berkeley Bicycle Club Criterium; and waive encroachment permit fees for the events.

REPORT BY: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Albany City Council:

1. Authorize staff, for a period of three years, to issue a Street Event Encroachment Permits to the Promotion of Albany High School Sports (PAHS) to allow a street closure for the Albany Community Triathlon and to Albany Little League to allow a street closure for the Annual Little League Parade;
2. Waive encroachment permit fees for each event; and
3. Require staff to refer the application back to the City Council for consideration if the nature of the events were to change significantly, or if currently unforeseen policy issues arise.

BACKGROUND

According to the City’s Master Fee Schedule, City Council approval is required for “group permits for special activities occurring in the public right-of-way (e.g., Solano Stroll)”. In the past, the City Council has taken action on the “Encroachment Permits” for reoccurring events on a case-by-case basis. In addition, in recent years, the applications have included a request to waive fees and out-of-pocket costs for public safety personnel and city maintenance services associated with the events.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The requests for encroachment permits to allow street closure for the Bike Race and Triathlon have been granted by the City Council in the past. This year, the Bike Race is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 and the Triatalon for Saturday, September 29. Because no major changes in the events are anticipated, staff is recommending that the City Council delegate to staff the authority

to approve Street Event permits for these two events, for the next three years. This delegation of authority will eliminate the need for additional City Council agenda items during the next three years. In addition, delegating authority to staff allows the City to issue the permits promptly upon application. If the nature of the events were to change significantly, or if currently unforeseen policy issues arise, staff would refer the application back to the City Council for consideration.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Similar to the Solano Stroll and the Little League Parade, the proposed events are community events that bring build community among residents and bring visitors to the City. Periodic street closures are an emerging trend in many communities that give residents and visitors an opportunity to use the public right of way in a different way than experienced by driving on the street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Because the applicants are non-profit organizations, it is recommended that the permit fee that is required for the encroachment permits, currently \$131.09, be waived.

Because the project sponsors provide staff for traffic control, Albany Police do not typically become involved in this event In addition, project sponsors clean the area of trash after the event Therefore, there is no financial impact to the City.