

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

Agenda date: July 7, 2008

Reviewed by: BP

- Subject:** Request by Solano Avenue Association for:
1. Issuance of an encroachment permit for the 2008 Solano Stroll event;
 2. Waiver of fees for paramedic services, police overtime, maintenance services and supplies, and encroachment permit fees; and
 3. Waiver of encroachment fee for all the Association events.

Report by: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Albany City Council:

1. Direct staff to issue a no fee encroachment permit to the Solano Avenue Association for the 2008 Solano Stroll event, scheduled for Sunday, September 14, 2008 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Event is 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.);
2. Waive fees for paramedics to be on-site from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., police overtime and city maintenance services; and
3. Waive encroachment fees for all future Association events.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Solano Avenue Association (SAA) submitted a Street Event - Encroachment Permit request to the Community Development Department. 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)".

This year's event will be on September 14, 2008 and the encroachment permit would cover the time period of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will extend along Solano Avenue from San Pablo Avenue east to the Berkeley border. As in years past, it is expected that the Executive Director, Allen Cain, will meet with Police and Community Development staff members to discuss any changes that might be anticipated for this year's event. This type of meeting is important to ensure that the City's maintenance crew and police department are adequately prepared.

Stroll organizers are to be commended for past policies of not allowing vendors to sell alcoholic beverages. As part of this encroachment permit, the Albany Police Department would like to reinforce this policy by requesting that Stroll organizers post signs (e.g., on barricades) reminding Stroll goers that "This is a non-alcohol event." In addition, Stroll

organizers are encouraged to take steps to discourage public alcohol consumption. This would not apply to legitimate open air restaurants and cafes, whether located on private or public property. In essence, the consumption of alcohol should be discouraged in public spaces. Because no major changes are anticipated, staff is again recommending that the City Council direct staff to issue a “no fee” encroachment permit for the 2008 Solano Stroll.

The SAA is requesting a waiver of encroachment permit fees for all of the Association’s events. Staff supports this request in that such waiver has typically been granted administratively in the past due to the non-profit and community service nature of the Association. SAA is also requesting a waiver for fees for paramedic service (from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.), as well as police and city maintenance services during the event. These requests have been granted by the City Council in the past.

The SAA is also requesting a \$25,000 contribution to assist in the Stroll and its service to the Albany community at large. A separate staff report is included in this meeting agenda, which addresses this contribution request.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The city provides a number of other services to the Solano Stroll that include \$900 in fee waivers for paramedic services, \$7,000 for police overtime, and \$7,000 for maintenance services (\$6,000) and supplies (\$1,000). These costs are estimates. The encroachment permit fee for this street event is \$131.09 per the Master Fee Schedule. Thus, the City’s estimated costs in services and fees total \$15,031.09.

Attachment

Solano Stroll Encroachment Permit application

General information handout from Solano Avenue Association to Stroll participants

June 12, 2008 letter from Robert Cheasty, SAA President to the City Council