CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 27, 2005

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, Transportation Committee

From: Wayne K. Tanda, General Manager
Department of Transportation

Subject: **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT AND ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A CENTRALIZED SPECIAL EVENT PERMITTING PROCESS,**
C.F. NOS. 02-0088, 99-1582

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. ADOPT the recommendations of the joint City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst report on the Special Events Permit Process dated November 18, 2003, as a substantial step in the right direction to addressing many of the key problems with the current special event process.

2. PRESENT and ADOPT the City Attorney's proposed ordinance amending LAMC Section 41.20 and adding Section 41.20.1 to implement the recommendations of the joint City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst report on the Special Events Permit Process dated November 18, 2003.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is a key player in the management of approximately 1,400 of the 2,500 special events held in the City each year. The DOT employs a full-time staff of 10 to prepare traffic management plans for parades, protest marches, athletic events on City streets and at fixed venues, and award shows. The actual implementation of the traffic management plans involves the deployment of as many as 400 Traffic Officers, Engineers and Sign Posters for a single event and the use of approximately $4.1 million in overtime each year.

DOT participated in the Citywide Task Force on Special Events Reform established in March 2001 by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to address four Council motions

introduced since 1998 regarding the City's handling of special events. Based on DOT's input, many concerns about current problems with lack of coordination among various agencies authorizing special events and insufficient notice of events have been addressed in the joint CAO/CLA report.

With regard to the City Attorney's proposed ordinance to implement the CAO/CLA report's recommendations, the language of proposed Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.20.1(e), "Events at Major Sports and Entertainment Venues", is of particular interest to DOT. Most, if not all, of the traffic management services DOT provides at venues like Dodger Stadium, the Greek Theatre, the Coliseum, the Sports Arena, Hollywood Bowl, Olympic Auditorium and Staples Center are to facilitate access to and from the venue for attendees and are not of benefit to the general public. The City Council, by Resolution, waived reimbursement of the City for traffic management costs at all of these venues except Staples Center (C.F. No. 94-0600-S48). The City's Development Agreement with the owners of the Staples Center includes language stating that Staples Center will not have to reimburse the City for event traffic management services until all similar venues are charged for these services. These waived costs at these seven sports and entertainment venues account for approximately 30 percent of all DOT Special Event overtime (see attached table). The language of the proposed Special Events ordinance would therefore prompt DOT to commence negotiations with all of the major sports and entertainment venues that currently do not reimburse the City for the cost of providing these additional services.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the CAO/CLA recommendations for Special Event reform and adoption of the City Attorney's implementing ordinance will eliminate the Council's ability to waive Special Event costs and fees and require departments to absorb those costs using funds budgeted for other services. Furthermore, the General Fund should realize additional revenue from the required reimbursement of City costs by commercial events and negotiation of contracts for special event services with previously exempt sports and entertainment venues.

AEW:
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Attachment

Comparison of Special Events Overtime Costs for DOT

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES	PROJECT NO.	FY 01-02 OVERTIME PAID	FY 02-03 OVERTIME PAID	FY 03-04 OVERTIME PAID
Ongoing Council Waivers (CF 94-0600-S48)				
Coliseum	20301	$ 122,991	$ 220,913	$ 297,428
Dodger Stadium	20303	$ 161,322	$ 167,713	$ 205,703
Sports Arena	20302	$ 48,456	$ 55,259	$ 76,032
Hollywood Bowl	20304	$ 217,443	$ 225,973	$ 230,449
Greek Theatre	20305	$ 74,745	$ 68,537	$ 101,574
Olympic Auditorium	20325	$ -	$ 292	$ 2,840
Subtotal		**$ 624,957**	**$ 738,687**	**$ 914,026**
Development Agreement Waivers				
Staples Center Traffic Plan	74520	$ 571,464	$ 478,356	$ 378,247
Ongoing Venue Waivers Subtotal		**$ 1,196,421**	**$ 1,217,043**	**$ 1,292,273**
All Other Special Events		**$ 2,144,881**	**$ 2,909,419**	**$ 2,732,937**
GRAND TOTAL OVERTIME COST		**$ 3,341,302**	**$ 4,126,462**	**$ 4,025,210**
Fee Waivers as a Percentage of Total Cost		**36%**	**29%**	**32%**