CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 20, 2009 **ITEM NUMBER: _____**

SUBJECT: **2009 OC MARATHON**

DATE: **JANUARY 8, 2009**

FROM: **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION**

PRESENTATION BY: **PETER NAGHAVI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: **RAJA SETHURAMAN, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (714) 754-5182**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve temporary street closures on May 3, 2009, as part of a Special Event Permit request for the proposed 2009 OC Marathon.

BACKGROUND:

A Special Event Permit application was submitted to the City on December 2, 2008, **(Attachment 1)** requesting closure of certain streets to conduct the May 3, 2009, OC Marathon. The application is currently being reviewed by the City's Special Event Committee, comprised of representatives from various City departments. Public safety, event time frames, traffic issues, impacts to properties, residents, and businesses, clean-up, and liability coverage are just some of the areas being evaluated, addressed, and conditioned by the Committee as part of the review and approval process.

The OC Marathon, an annual event, held its first marathon in 2004. All previous marathons utilized streets in the cities of Newport Beach and Irvine. This year, however, the organizers have proposed a new route through Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, and certain segments of the County of Orange Flood Control District areas. The proposed route for the 2009 OC Marathon begins, as in past years, at Fashion Island in the City of Newport Beach. The new finish location is at the Orange County Fair and Event Center.

The OC Marathon event is comprised of three sub-events:

1. Full marathon (26.32 miles);
2. Half-marathon (13.27 miles); and
3. 5K fun run/walk (3.1 miles).

The affected streets in Costa Mesa for the full marathon include portions of Santa Ana Avenue, Bristol Street, Red Hill Avenue, Main Street, Sunflower Avenue, Avenue of the Arts, Bear Street, Placentia Avenue, Oriole Drive, Canary Drive, Tanager Drive, Golf Course Drive, Harbor Boulevard, Merrimac Way, and Fairview Road. The affected streets for the half-marathon include portions of Santa Ana Avenue and Mesa Drive. The affected streets for the 5K fun run/walk are Fair Drive, Vanguard Way, Fairview Road, and Merrimac Way. **Attachments 2, 3, and 4** depict the requested routes within Costa Mesa.

The full and half-marathon events begin in the City of Newport Beach at 6:30 a.m. Street closures will occur as runners progress along the route. For the full marathon, street closures in Costa Mesa begin

at 7:15 a.m. and the latest segments reopen no later than 1:30 p.m. For the half-marathon, street closures in Costa Mesa begin at 7:15 a.m. and the latest segments reopen no later than 10:00 a.m. For the 5K run, street closures will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the last road segment will reopen no later than 8:30 a.m. The 5K run will begin and end at the OC Fair and Event Center.

Since the proposed routes for all three events are not among the three (3) previously-approved Special Event Street areas **(Attachment 5)**, the approval of these street closures by City Council is required.

ANALYSIS:

Transportation Services Division and Police Department Traffic Bureau staff has worked diligently with OC Marathon organizers over the past few months to develop routes that will showcase distinctive features in Costa Mesa, while at the same time minimizing impacts associated with such a major event. By utilizing such features as the "Unity Bridge" over Bristol Street, Fairview Park, and the City and County bike trails, staff has been able to minimize impacts on many residential and commercial areas, as well as arterial streets. Staff has given careful attention to providing access as much as possible to churches and other businesses that are open during the time of the street closures and detours.

Routes:

Full Marathon: The full marathon begins at Fashion Island in the City of Newport Beach. The route proceeds around Upper Newport Bay, enters east side Costa Mesa, continues in the airport industrial area, and through the Theater and Arts District, then proceeds northbound on Bear Street into the City of Santa Ana. The full marathon route returns to Costa Mesa via the Santa Ana River Bike Trail and Fairview Park. The route then proceeds through a small portion of the upper bird streets neighborhood, and a City bike trail, and finally ends at the Orange County Fair and Event Center via Merrimac Way. A map of the full marathon route is shown on **Attachment 2**.

Half-Marathon: The half-marathon follows the same route as the full marathon as it first enters Costa Mesa from Newport Beach. However, it breaks off from the marathon route on Santa Ana Avenue by turning west on Mesa Drive. The runners will proceed directly to the Orange County Fair and Event Center, crossing Newport Boulevard Frontage Road and entering at Gate 10 (Mesa Gate). The half-marathon route is shown on **Attachment 3.**

5K Run: The 5K run begins and ends at the Orange County Fair and Event Center. The 5K run leaves the Orange County Fair and Event Center at Gate 2 (Vanguard Gate), proceeds east on Fair Drive, and around City Hall and Police Department buildings to Vanguard Way. The route will then turn west on Fair Drive, and then north on Fairview Road to Merrimac Way. Before reaching Harbor Boulevard, the route turns around eastbound and returns to the Orange County Fair and Event Center via Merrimac Way, entering at Gate 3 to finish at the same location as the marathon. A map of the proposed 5K route is shown on **Attachment 4**.

Street Closures:

A number of minor residential and major arterial streets will require full closure, while some other streets will require either half-closure (one direction), or partial closure (only the closure of one or two lanes in one direction). In order to minimize the impacts, the closure of streets will be phased to occur as the fastest runners approach, and will be reopened as the last of the runners and the official sweep vehicle pass by. The fastest marathon runners are expected to finish in approximately 2 hours 20 minutes. The overall length of time for the slowest runners of the marathon will be limited to a maximum of seven hours. The marathon begins at 6:30 a.m.; therefore, the last runner permitted on the course would finish no later than 1:30 p.m. A sweep vehicle will circulate through the course in time with the slowest paced runner to ensure the course is clear and that streets can be reopened as soon as possible.

As shown on the route maps, major street crossings are kept to a minimum. The use of such features as the "Unity Bridge" over Bristol Street and the Santa Ana River Bike Trail to pass under Adams Avenue helps to avoid closure of these two major arterials in the most heavily traveled areas of Costa Mesa.

Attachment 6 presents a brief summary of the arterials affected by the proposed full marathon, half-marathon, and 5k fun run/walk routes through Costa Mesa.

Impacts to traffic flow will occur at various intersections as participants move along the route beginning as early as 7:30 a.m. and ending at 1:30 p.m. **Attachment 7** identifies the major intersections where traffic detours are necessary to provide for the safety of runners while crossing intersections. As shown in the attachment, traffic control on Harbor Boulevard and Fairview Road will be conducted as **"soft closures,"** whereby vehicles will be allowed through as gaps in runners permit. Advance warning signs will be positioned to advise drivers of possible delays during this time. Traffic control will be actively managed by Costa Mesa Police Officers, allowing traffic to pass though the area as much as possible.

Staff has also reviewed planned street improvement projects within the City for any conflicts with the OC Marathon and confirms that no projects are scheduled on streets or in Fairview Park that would impact the proposed route for this event. Close monitoring of project schedules will continue as the date of the marathon approaches.

Traffic Control:

OC Marathon representatives estimate up to 12,000 participants and 12,000 spectators along the 26-mile route. Due to the large scale of the event and magnitude of street closures, lane closures, and detours, the Transportation Services Division has required that the applicant be responsible for preparation and submittal of detailed traffic control plans stamped by a Registered Traffic Engineer. Additionally, the applicant will be responsible for furnishing all traffic control cones, signs, and barricades required for the event. The overall traffic control at intersections and driveways will be directed by Costa Mesa Police Department Officers and Explorers.

The Police Department staff has carefully reviewed the proposed event to determine the number of officers necessary to manage traffic control in Costa Mesa. It is estimated that approximately 72 Police Officers will need to be stationed along the route to ensure adequate traffic control and public safety. In addition, volunteer Police Department Explorers will also be utilized to assist in traffic control at driveways.

Since the OC Marathon is being held on a Sunday, it will not affect weekday peak rush hour traffic. Therefore, during the hours in which the event occurs in Costa Mesa, it is expected to have a lesser impact on traffic flow. With traffic control at all locations monitored and managed by the City's Police Department, emergency access to all properties is assured at all times. Fire Department personnel on the Special Event Committee are involved in reviewing the Special Event Permit application and will include any necessary conditions and implement appropriate measures to ensure unaffected emergency response as necessary.

Public Information:

The applicant will be conditioned to provide written notification prior to the event **to all** property owners and tenants affected by the street closures. Some samples of correspondence are included with the Special Event application **(Attachment 1)**. The applicant is engaged in discussion with private property owners in the Theater and Arts District and South Coast Plaza area, as well as the Orange County Fair and Event Center, for approval to utilize those properties for the event and, based on those discussions, anticipates their approval.

City staff will work with the applicant to identify and be certain that all properties directly affected by the event receive adequate notice of the event as to the time and period of closure, as well as proper detour information. Additionally, as part of traffic control requirements, Transportation Services Division staff will require the placement of changeable message signs at key locations in advance of the event to give adequate notice of the planned street closures.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative would be to not approve the requested route as submitted and direct the applicant to revise the route to use other streets.

Another alternative would be to not approve the requested street closures. This may result in cancellation of the 2009 OC Marathon.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The City will be reimbursed for the actual cost of police services required in support of the 2009 OC Marathon pursuant to a Police Department Special Services Contract.

Costs for the OC Marathon are estimated to include 72 Police Officers. The total costs incurred by the City for the event, and to be reimbursed by the applicant pursuant to the Special Services Contract, are estimated to be $92,990.

LEGAL REVIEW:

As part of the Special Event Permit application, the applicant will be required to provide the City with indemnity and insurance per the City's requirements.

CONCLUSION:

A Special Event Permit application has been submitted to the City requesting closure of certain streets on May 3, 2009, to conduct the 2009 OC Marathon. Approval to close the streets for this event requires City Council action. Therefore, the City Council is requested to consider approval of the closure of certain streets for the 2009 OC Marathon. A Special Event Permit to be issued for this event will include conditions required of the applicant to ensure a safe event.

RAJA SETHURAMAN
Manager, Transportation Services

PETER NAGHAVI
Director, Department of Public Services

MARC R. PUCKETT
Finance Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Special Event Permit Application
2. Full Marathon Route Map
3. Half-Marathon Route Map
4. 5K Fun Run/Walk Route Map
5. Approved Resolution Identifying Special Event Street Closure Areas
6. Affected Streets
7. Major Intersections Affected

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Police Chief
Fire Chief
City Clerk
Special Events Police Sergeant Robert Sharpnack
Maintenance Services Manager
Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Telecommunications Manager
Doug Lofstrom, VP – Events & Facilities, Orange County Fair & Event Center