



# Corporate

NO: R166

# Report

COUNCIL DATE: July 22, 2002

<b>REGULAR</b>			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	July 11, 2002
FROM:	Manager, Economic Development Office	FILE:	
SUBJECT:	Delegation - Jim Nichols, World Pangration Event		

## RECOMMENDATION

That the application by Mr. Nichols for a World Pangration Event to be held at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds be denied.

## INTENT

This report is written in response to a delegation appearance before Council of a Mr. Jim Nichols for a World Pangration Event to be held at the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition grounds, in the Agriplex.

## BACKGROUND

Mr. Nichols applied to use the Agriplex for the purposes of a fighting event called "Pangration". It is the name taken from a form of fighting that occurred in ancient Greece. According to the current Rule Summary submitted by Mr. Nichols, the sport in the United States started under the name "Ultimate Fighting Championship" and in Brazil under the name of Vale Tudo ("Anything Goes").

Members of the City's FEST Committee discussed the event with Mr. Nichols and after an analysis of the information received, Mr. Nichols was advised through the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association that this event was considered an extreme fighting challenge and as such would not be permitted within the City of Surrey. Mr. Nichols appeared before Council as a delegation in order to appeal the decision.

One objective of the FEST committee is to assess the potential costs of an event to the City of Surrey and make recommendations for reducing the negative impact on city resources. Another objective is to review the impact of an event on the community. A primary Goal and Objective within the City's Policy & Procedures Manual for Festivals and Events in Surrey is "*to be proactive in bringing Special Events to the City that enhance a positive image of the City of Surrey*". It is not considered that the Pangration event will meet that fundamental goal.

As an example, within the Rules of the event provided by Mr. Nichols, there is a disqualification rule that occurs after any combination of three fouls. A foul has a number of descriptions, but can include “eye gouging”; “kicking the head of a grounded fighter”; “stomping of grounded fighter”, “heel strikes to the kidney”, among others. These are not image enhancing goals.

There would also be a negative impact on city resources in controlling an event that attracts this element of spectators to the city and other groups promoting similar events would see Surrey as a venue for their event. The public demands a significant level of sensitivity and ethical standards for the use of publicly owned facilities and this event is not seen as meeting those standards.

## **CONCLUSION**

This is not an event that brings a positive image to the City of Surrey as stated within the Policy & Procedures Manual for Special Events. It has been denied and Mr. Nichols has appeared before Council in an appeal of that decision. It is recommended that Council not approve the Pangration Event in Surrey.

Linda Hepner

Manager, Economic Development Office

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