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| Our Ref: A28.3/04/12/8906 | Your Ref: 9/50/22 - jwNOTIFICATIONLET |
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| Proposed Procession: | Aberdeen TUC Parade |
| Date: | 1800 hours on Friday 20 April 2012 |
| Police met with organiser: | No |
| Police objection to procession: | Yes |
| Recommendations: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There should be dedicated, appropriately qualified Stewards in attendance; 2. The organiser must fully brief Stewards as to their responsibilities; 3. The Stewards must wear yellow high-visibility jackets, at all times when escorting the procession; 4. If the parade is approved, the route should be as per the usual template, from St Nicholas Church, Union Street to the Castlegate; 5. The organiser must inform the local media of the timings of the procession and likelihood of there being disruption to traffic in the City Centre; 6. The organiser must inform the Hackney Licensing Department of the timings of the procession given the potential disruption to taxi ranks in the City Centre; 7. The organiser must inform local bus companies of the street closures and their duration, to enable alternative routes to be implemented; 8. The organiser must inform the Scottish Ambulance Service and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service about the times and movements of the procession; and 9. The organisers should have in place Public Liability Insurance should any legal action or otherwise be forthcoming following an incident during this event. |
| Policing to be provided: | Yes |

Comments:

The TUC have regularly held two marches in Aberdeen in May and November each year. This parade application is in addition to those.

Grampian Police are aware that a similar parade application has been submitted by the National Front to take place on the same date and time and covering the same route.

As submitted, this application does not follow the existing template recommended by Grampian Police, which is a route starting at St Nicholas Church and proceeding eastwards to the Castlegate, Aberdeen. A parade which follows this template can be facilitated by minimal numbers of Police Officers, causing minor disruption to the general public and normal Police business. The route of the parade requested in this application would require significant Police resources and might potentially adversely affect day to day business within the city centre. Of particular significance would be the road closures required at the junction of Union Street with Union Terrace/ Bridge Street which would have a negative impact on traffic management.

The route normally recommended by Grampian Police ensures the traffic management can be carried out wholly by means of Police personnel, without a requirement for signs and barriers.

The organiser has further intimated that the participants will gather at 1800 hours at the Adelphi, with the Parade commencing shortly thereafter, westwards along Union Street, turning right onto Union Terrace and terminating at Union Terrace Gardens, where the marchers will disperse. As stated, this Procession does not follow the existing tried and tested route as in previous Parades and Grampian Police have significant concerns in respect of disruption to the public and the additional Police resources which will be required to facilitate this.

Grampian Police are aware that the organiser of this parade has appeared in local media objecting to the National Front parade and has stated a desire to hold an 'Anti-Fascist' march at the same time. It appears that he has applied for this application as he is aware that the National Front have applied to march on the same parade route on the same date.

In this application, the organiser states that he does not know the level of risk with regard to public safety, public order or damage to property. This is of significant concern to Grampian Police as the general principle in respect of parade organisers is that they carry out a risk assessment for their parade, are fully conversant with any potential risks and take all necessary mitigating steps to ensure sufficient control measures are in place. Grampian Police have concerns that this parade, when taken in conjunction with the parade application for the National Front, poses a heightened risk to public safety, public order or damage to property.

Grampian Police are satisfied that the organiser has specifically chosen a time, date and route that is in direct conflict with the National Front parade, and although required to do so, has carried out no formal risk assessment.

As stated by Grampian Police on the response to the application for the National Front Parade, *"where National Front Parades and rallies have occurred, despite the significant planning and the apparent intentions of the organisers, the parades may potentially attract persons whose motives can tend towards public disorder. Grampian Police are also concerned that unlike the majority of parades, this parade might attract persons who wish to register their protest against the participants or the parade taking place. As such, there is a genuine risk to public safety and potential damage to nearby property should the application for the parade be approved."*

This application by the organiser appears to be a deliberate attempt to disrupt the original parade application by the National Front.

Grampian Police would not be in a position to facilitate two marches at the same time on the same route, where there is a very high risk of public disorder without utilising significant Police resources and the resources of partner agencies.

On his application, the organiser states that he has previous experience with regard to the 'Pension day of action' on 30 November 2011. Whilst this is correct, Grampian Police understands that the event held at the Castlegate, Aberdeen, was carried out without the express authority or usual permission from Aberdeen City Council. This resulted in the involvement of Grampian Police to oversee the event and ensure public safety. It is further understood that the organiser did not engage with any partner agency prior to the event.


The organiser has stated that he considers the overall risk of holding the procession to be low. He does not appear to have given any proper regard to the circumstances in reaching this conclusion. It is the observation of Grampian Police that this assessment is not sufficient to properly establish the risks associated in applying to march given the additional parade application by the National Front.

Irrespective of the above observations and concerns expressed by Grampian Police, if the application to parade is approved, it is requested that consideration is given to applying the existing template with the route being along Union Street, Aberdeen, from St Nicholas Church to the Castlegate.

Police contact:

Events Planning, Aberdeen Division, Tel 01224 306481

Signed:



Date: 13 March 2012

Keith Henderson, Chief Inspector, Aberdeen Division