



# Panda Game Discussion

April 12, 2022



1. Scope and status of 2021 Panda Game Debrief
2. Key findings
  1. Community Enforcement
  2. Panda Game and Tailgate
3. Recommendations
4. Next steps



- Review of the public safety concerns and the associated police response on Russel Avenue
- Review of the Panda Game event at TD Place
- Review of the Panda Game Tailgate at the Sandy Hill Arena



Purpose of today's discussion is to validate the findings and key recommendations that were informed via inputs from the following:

- Town and Gown Committee
- Survey response and associated report from Action Sandy Hill
- Members of the Special Events Advisory Team, including the Ottawa Police Service, By-Law and Regulatory Services, and Traffic Management
- University of Ottawa, Carleton University, and Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group



- Ottawa Police Service: Lessons Learned from Panda Game 2021, St. Patrick's Day 2022



- Continued concern for safety and protection of property as it relates to unsanctioned street parties
- Request for additional dedicated resources to remain in Sandy Hill for the duration of the day/evening
- Request that all enforcement options be pursued
- The expectation that dedicated City Services are paid for by the University
- Request that the Panda Game be suspended in 2022



- Evidence from other university cities demonstrates that unsanctioned street partying is a problematic behavior that occurs regardless of a sanctioned activity or event and is mobilized within minutes through social media platforms.
- The criminal activities within the Sandy Hill community occurred several hours after permitted events concluded. Sanctioned activities that received a special event permit experienced no major issues.
- By maintaining a scheduled event under the authority of the Special Events on Public and Private Property By-law, there is a means to bring stakeholders together to conduct integrated planning, apply risk reduction measures, and impose conditions on organizers.
- SEAT review and permitting provides a method of deploying additional resources throughout the course of the event as well as a method of requesting payment for municipal services or the Ottawa Police Service.
- Event Central maintains the ability to refuse the special event permit requests at any time, should the event organizers not be in a position to meet the requirements identified by SEAT.



- Sanctioned activities went as planned, with minimal issues.
  - Pre-event door knocker campaign carried out by both Universities, along with safe partying messaging in conjunction with Ottawa Public Health were well received by staff and the community.
  - Planning for events must begin well in advance, uncertainty regarding COVID regulations was a challenge.
  - Need to consider modifying event date to later in the year, when weather may help curb unsanctioned outdoor activities.
  - Need to consider having a post-game tailgate as an additional mitigation measure to minimize negative impacts to the Sandy Hill community.
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- That the City consider a 2022 event application should the University of Ottawa and their partners agree that the sanctioned Panda Game events are a means to reduce risk and address the problematic behaviors being demonstrated by their student population.
- Should the event organizers wish to proceed with a sanctioned Panda Game, the event application be submitted in advance of the proscribed timeline required under the Special Events on Public and Private Property By-Law. The purpose being to allow as much time as possible for the planning and review of the event and explore various contingencies.
- Event organizers to enhance their communication strategy and diversion plan – promote sanctioned events as a means of diversion from disruptive activity, possible consequences for inappropriate behavior, party-safe messaging, the availability of free transportation to take spectators to the game, etc.
- The Event Organizers and relevant Services engage in planning for a community safety response to specifically address potential disruptive unsanctioned activities within the Sandy Hill Community.

1. Organizing partnership to confirm their intentions for 2022
2. Pending the intent to proceed with sanctioned events in 2022, the organizing partnership is required to submit their application(s) and associated mitigation plans to SEAT in May
3. Subsequent community response plans will be determined in parallel
4. City of Ottawa and Ottawa Police Service to provide an update to the community in September