

For Immediate Release **Christmas Boat Parade**

Hamilton – 4 December 2018

The City of Hamilton announces that it will be hosting an official Viewing Village in No. 1 Car Park for spectators at this weekend's Bermuda Christmas Boat Parade on Saturday, December 8th. The City took over the organization and execution of the Parade and is thrilled to offer a family-friendly atmosphere to the evening. The Parade will begin at approximately 6:30pm with the Spirit of Bermuda leading the flotilla of vessels. Boats will circumnavigate White's Island with the route stretching between Red Hole and Darrell's Wharf, over to The Hamilton Princess and back along Front Street.

Event organizers can confirm that revelers on the night will enjoy food and product vendors as well as a Kids' Zone in No. 1 Car Park. The whole car park will be transformed into a festive area with bleachers for seating and there will also be viewing areas from Albuoy's Point to No. 5 Car Park across from Flanagan's. Admission to the Village is free and the public is encouraged to bring their own chairs as bleacher seating will be limited.

Vendors found at the Village include Bermuda Cupcake Company, Ashley's Lemonade, Sensational Delights, DeGraff's, Sniggles Face Painting, Glaze and Four Star Pizza, Rotary Youth Club (Interact) Bake Sale, Novel Tea, Jazzy Treats, Budget Enterprise (Toys), Funnelicious, Stella Marie Church (Portuguese Donuts), Ms. Delicious, Zoomables, Play Games (fun castles) and Glow Zone Laser Tag.

As a special added treat, JetPack Invasion have returned to Bermuda for a stunning Parade performance. These hydrofliers will take to the skies in an acrobatic visual display in sync to their illuminated suits and pulsating music. You may remember them from Battle on the Rock last year. They are back and ready to wow the crowd despite the chillier water temperatures.

City of Hamilton Mayor, Charles Gosling, said, 'This is one of the most highly anticipated social events in Bermuda, held at such a festive time of year. We're thrilled to host this year's Parade as well as the official Viewing Village in No. 1 Car Park. I encourage everyone to come out and support the participating captains and their crews and the numerous vendors that will partake in the evening's festivities. It's such a special time of year and this holiday event is a community-driven one so I applaud all those boats taking part and look forward to wearing my judge's hat. My special thanks to the City's Events team that has taken up the reins of the organization of the parade; a first-rate event for our local community and visitors with the continued support of the event sponsors.'

Steve Thomson, spokesperson for the Bermuda Boat Parade Charity, the group that founded the event, added, 'We are thrilled that after a three-year absence The Bermuda Christmas Boat Parade has returned and will, by all accounts, be bigger and better than ever.

With the support and guidance of The City of Hamilton, and of course the numerous sponsors, the event this Saturday should be a wonderful success.'

Renee Bullock-Cann, Head of Retail Banking Wealth Management for Proud Lead Sponsor HSBC, shared, 'Bermuda may not be the only country to hold a boat parade, but we happen to think that ours is unique in that it represents all that is great about the Island and our culture. I know I speak for my colleagues at HSBC in saying that we are proud to be the Lead Sponsor of this event and are all looking forward to seeing what the Boat Parade entrants have in store for the community this year. An incredible amount of work and creativity goes into each and every boat on display and we hope that as many people as possible will come out and enjoy what is going to be an exciting and beautiful event, complete with HSBC employees adding to the fun in the streets of Hamilton.'

The event has partnered with Bermuda Broadcasting Company that will offer live coverage from the Event Village on OCEAN 89. Keevil 'The Captain' Burgess, along with Dianne Carlson, will be your radio hosts and will introduce all of the participating boats as well as interview some special guests. BBC CEO Patrick Singleton, added, 'We are delighted to be able to provide full radio commentary of the Christmas Boat Parade, which is one of the most popular family events on the island. Spectators at the event itself will enjoy our informative, lively commentary and listeners who can't make it into Hamilton will feel as if they are present. This coverage is part of our community outreach and we are thrilled to be involved.'

Due to the anticipated crowds expected to observe the Parade from areas along Harbour Road, the Bermuda Police Service advises that Harbour Road is being converted to a single one-way lane heading eastward into Hamilton between 6pm and 9pm. This will allow for parking in the westbound lane. Those attending house parties that take advantage of the Harbour Road parking must not block private access driveways and MUST remove their cars by 9pm when the westbound lane reopens.

Contributing sponsors for the Parade include Chubb, the Oil Group of Companies, Colonial and The Hamilton Princess. Participating sponsors include the Phoenix Stores Limited, Masters, Gorhams, Rubis, Barritts, Butterfield & Vallis, Elbow Beach Hotel, Fairmont Southampton, Bacardi, Little Venice Group, The MarketPlace and The Reefs.

More information about the Bermuda Boat Parade can be found on the City website at **www.cityofhamilton.bm**.

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