

NO: R103

COUNCIL DATE: June 10, 2024

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 5, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **1850-20**  
**General Manager, Finance**

SUBJECT: **Community Events Policing Grants Program – Funding Awarded from 2022 to 2023**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Finance Department recommend that Council receive this report for information.

## INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the Community Events Policing Grant Program (the “Program”) and information on the grants awarded from 2022 to 2023. Community events include parades, festivals and other gatherings hosted by community groups in Surrey.

## BACKGROUND

On February 23, 2015, Council approved the Program, to reduce the burden of policing costs borne by community groups for events, parades and festivals that provide free admission for the general public. The maximum limit of grant per eligible event is \$55,000 and funding is reported out annually. Further information on the Program is reflected in Appendix “I”.

## DISCUSSION

The Policing Grant Evaluation Committee reviews applications from events based on the criteria outlined in Appendix “I”. Events range from athletic tournaments, large scale parades and cultural festivals.

From 2022-2023 the City received six applications from groups to hold special events and festivals on City property or on City streets. Events range from athletic tournaments to large scale parades to cultural festivals. The City provided \$9,330 in policing grants during this period, as outlined in Appendix “II” of this report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic events were not hosted in 2020 and 2021 and therefore no grants were provided.

The City is expecting to receive an additional 25 applications in the fourth quarter of 2024 for report out in 2025, as the number of organizers are finalizing their policing applications for their event held in late 2023 and early 2024.

### Application and Evaluation Process

The Policing Grant Evaluation Committee is made up of members from the RCMP and City staff from Bylaws, Risk Management, Finance and Parks, Recreation & Culture. The Committee reviews all policing grant applications and makes recommendations to ensure that community events are well-organized and safe. Prior to being eligible for this grant, event organizers must have successfully hosted their event and fully paid any outstanding invoices to the City.

The *Special Events Regulation By-law No. 14731* (“the By-law”) states that the level of police resources assigned to special events is two officers for events of up to 500 persons, and a further officer for each additional 250 persons anticipated to attend the event; commanding officers or his/her designate may reduce the number of officers.

## **FUNDING**

### Status of Program Funding

On an annual basis, \$125,000 is allocated to the Policing Grant Program. The available grant funding includes the approved annual grant budget and unallocated funding carried forward from previous year. Appendix “II” attached to this report provides information on the status of funding related to the Program.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City’s Policing Grant Program is an important initiative to promote community-based events and celebrations that improve the quality of life for Surrey residents. These events also celebrate Surrey’s cultural diversity and provide indirect financial benefits to Surrey’s business community.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Kam Grewal, CMA, CPA  
General Manager  
Finance

Appendix “I” – Information on the Policing Grants Program  
Appendix “II” – Summary of Grant Recipients 2022-2023

## **Information on the Policing Grants Program**

The following outlines the criteria under which community groups can apply to the City for grants to partially off-set the costs of Policing services.

The Program applies only to events, parades and festivals:

- Held on City lands or on City streets, in accordance with the *Special Events Regulation By-law No. 14731*;
- Event organization is recognized as a not-for-profit organization that has been established for over one year;
- Where any member of the public can attend free of charge; and
- Where RCMP officers are in attendance and the City has invoiced the hosting organization for recovery of policing costs.

The Program does not apply to events:

- That are admission-based (ticketed) where the host organization is charging a fee for entry to the event or for participation in the event, whether paid in advance, at the time of entry, or at any time throughout the duration of the event.

Applications will not be considered if:

- The hosting organization has any outstanding payments to the City of Surrey.
- Are in breach of any City by-law or regulation.
- Are in litigation or claims against the City of Surrey.

**APPENDIX “II”**

**2022-2023 Community Event Policing Grants Program**

<b>2022</b>	
2022 Annual Adopted Budget	\$ 125,000
Grants Recommended in 2022:	
<b>Surrey Pride Society - Annual celebration that takes place during the month of June in honour of Pride Month.</b>	<b>\$ 2,735</b>
Unallocated Grant Funding Balance on December 31, 2022	<b>\$ 122,265</b>

<b>2023</b>	
Unused Grant Funding carried over from 2022	\$ 122,265
2023 Annual Adopted Budget	\$ 125,000
2023 Total Available Grant Funding	\$ 247,265
Grants Recommended in 2023:	
<b>Surrey Pride Festival - Annual celebration that takes place during the month of June in honour of Pride Month.</b>	<b>\$ 2,614</b>
<b>Vancouver Int’l Bhangra Celebration (5X Fest) - 5X Block Party is an annual event hosted in Surrey covering music, visual art, fashion, and South Asian culture.</b>	<b>\$ 3,981</b>
Unallocated Grant Funding Balance on December 31, 2023	<b>\$ 240,670</b>