

Criminal record searches are performed by the policing jurisdiction of the community in which an individual resides and are a requirement for any individuals who works or volunteers with children. The City of Surrey currently has one of the lowest fees for criminal record searches in the Lower Mainland and waives this fee for volunteers of Surrey-based organizations. However most of our neighbouring municipalities waive the fee for all volunteers, regardless of where the organization is based.

When Surrey resident volunteers for an organization that is not Surrey-based, the fee must be paid and generally the non-profit organization reimburses the individual for the cost in order to ensure equal treatment of all their volunteers. This costs puts an additional financial burden on the non-profit organization. It is therefore recommended that Council consider waiving the criminal record search fee for all Surrey residents who provide proof that they are volunteering for organizations in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

CONCLUSION

As directed by Council, staff have reviewed the application of the criminal records search fee for the City of Surrey and the neighbouring communities. Surrey has one of the lowest fees for this service in the Lower Mainland. However, unlike neighbouring municipalities, Surrey does not exempt all volunteers. It is therefore recommended that criminal record search fees be waived for Surrey residents who provide proof that they are volunteering for organizations within the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

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Cc: OIC Surrey Detachment