

Disposal of Obsolete Computer Equipment

The City disposes of obsolete computer equipment by first purging it of all data and then sending it to be auctioned off. Currently, such equipment is sold by the pallet (20 plus units per pallet) and provides a very minimal return to the City. Buyers are typically buying the equipment to retrieve the metal and other materials it contains.

DISCUSSION

Surrey Fire Services staff and Finance & Technology staff have been exploring options with respect to the disposal of decommissioned fire services equipment and obsolete computer equipment with a view to progressing the City toward a higher level of sustainability.

Fire Services Equipment

Firefighters Without Borders is a registered non-profit society (the “Society”) that was founded 12 years ago by the Vancouver Fire Department for the purpose of providing firefighting equipment and clothing along with skills training to the fire services staff of developing countries. Other fire services departments within the Lower Mainland and throughout BC can partner in this international aid program.

Surrey Fire Services is in the process of negotiating an agreement with the Society to donate decommissioned fire services turnout gear, nozzles and SCBA equipment to the Society for its distribution to developing countries. The Society has sponsors who assist with the program by storing equipment and providing shipping and handling at no cost to the Society.

Computer Equipment

Information Technology is negotiating an agreement with Dell Professional Services to allow for the reuse of computer hardware and software that is obsolete to Surrey. Under this agreement Dell Professional Services will pick up the City’s obsolete computer hardware and software, purge the hard-drives of all data and conduct an assessment of each piece of equipment to determine its suitability for reuse by classifying it into one of three classes:

- a) Hardware and software having significant value: This equipment will be resold and a portion of the proceeds will be forwarded to the City of Surrey;
- b) Hardware and software that is usable but has more limited market value: This hardware will be donated to the *National Cristina Foundation* (<http://www.cristina.org/>); and
- c) Hardware that is not usable: This hardware will be sent to the Trail Smelter for destruction and reclamation of basic materials.

The *National Cristina Foundation* collects and distributes, at no cost to the recipient, computer hardware and software both in Canada and throughout the rest of the World to individuals with disabilities or who are economically disadvantaged, schools and not-for-profit agencies. One of the purposes of the *Foundation* is to enhance the quality of life of the disadvantaged through the provision of computer equipment and training.

The Foundation relies upon corporations and individuals donating used computers, software, peripherals and related business technology. Through an online application process, they screen potential charities, schools and not-for-profit agencies that apply to receive used computer equipment for the purpose of assisting those in need.

Dell Professional Services through its agreement with the City will provide the City with records confirming the transfer of ownership of the computer equipment, documentation that the information on the hard-drives have been fully purged prior to its reuse by others and confirmation that any unusable hardware has been disposed in an environmentally responsible manner.

All donations will be subject to the conclusion of agreements with Firefighters Without Borders and Dell Professional Services that will be reviewed by Legal Services prior to finalization.

CONCLUSION

The disposal of equipment as discussed in this report supports the objectives of the City's draft Sustainability Charter. It will demonstrate environmental sustainability by reducing the amount of waste generated by the City and social sustainability by improving the well being of those who are in need through the effective reuse of equipment that is no longer useful to the City.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Len Garis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Len Garis
Fire Chief

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Finance & Technology