

NO: **R191**

COUNCIL DATE: **October 19, 2009**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 14, 2009**

FROM: **City Clerk**

FILE: **0540-20V**

SUBJECT: **South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee**

RECOMMENDATION

The Legislative Services Division recommends that Council:

1. receive this report for information; and
2. authorize the City Clerk to forward a letter to the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, copied to the Attorney General's office, advising that as of December 31, 2009, the City of Surrey is withdrawing as a member of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (SFFC&YJC) was established in 2001, in accordance with Section 5 of the *Provincial Court Act* RSBC, 1996 C.379 as amended. The concept of the Committee was first advocated in the early 1990's and through a joint effort of the City Councils in the South of Fraser area the Committee was established in 2002. The members of the Committee include:

- City of Surrey – 5 members;
- Township of Langley – 3 members;
- City of Langley – 2 members;
- City of White Rock – 2 members; and
- Corporation of Delta – 3 members.

The City of Surrey provides financial support to the Committee as part of its membership responsibilities. In 2003 the committee presented a budget of \$20,000 to support attendance at conferences and workshops and requested funding from each participating municipality to support this request, upon review of the budget, it was reduced to \$16,500 to remove the unidentified revenue, with funding support as follows: City of Surrey, \$6,250; Township of Langley, \$3,750; City of Langley, \$2,500, City of White Rock, \$2,500 and a private donation of \$500. This City of Surrey's contribution was funded from Council Initiatives.

In 2006, the JFC&YJC presented a budget of \$20,000 to support attendance at conferences and to perform research projects. Upon review of the financial activity, it was determined that the City of Surrey has been the only municipality to contribute to past expenses. The budget was reduced to remove unidentified revenue and the funding support was adjusted to ensure that all

municipalities contributed proportionately. Funding support was distributed as follows: City of Surrey, \$1,572.12; Township of Langley, \$4,543.28; City of Langley, \$2,680.8, City of White Rock, \$2,528.85 and the Corporation of Delta, \$3,750. **The City of Surrey also assumed financial reporting responsibility** to ensure the contributions were collected and that payments were processed and tracked effectively.

The 2007 budget of \$9,500 was distributed as follows: City of Surrey, \$3,250; ; Township of Langley, \$1,875; City of Langley, \$1,250, City of White Rock, \$1,250 and the Corporation of Delta, \$1,875.

The 2008 budget of \$19,000 was distributed as follows: City of Surrey, \$6,250; ; Township of Langley, \$3,750; City of Langley, \$2,500, City of White Rock, \$2,500 and the Corporation of Delta, \$3,750.

At December 31, 2008, the committee's balance of available funds was \$26,979.44. The committee decided not to seek additional funding in 2009, given their available funding.

SFFC&YJ Committee Fund balance at October 14, 2009 is \$21,216.78.

Summary of contributions to date:

City of Surrey	\$ 17,322.12
Township of Langley	10,168.28
City of Langley	6,430.80
City of White Rock	6,250.00
Corporation of Delta	9,375.00
Victoria Family Court	2,000.00
Private Donation	<u>500.00</u>
Total Funding	\$52,046.20

The Committee's mandate as articulated in the attached Terms of Reference reads as follows:

1. The South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the "Committee") is established to:
 - (a) Consider and examine the resources of the community for family and children's matters;
 - (b) Assist the officers and judges of the court when requested by them;
 - (c) Make recommendations to the court, the Attorney General, or others that the Committee considers advisable;
 - (d) Act as a community resource; and
 - (e) Assist in individual cases if referred to the Committee.
2. The Committee shall report annually to the member municipal councils and to the Attorney General respecting its activities during the past year.

The SFFC&YJC meets on a monthly basis and provide an annual report to each Council and the Attorney General's office that outlines the activities of the Committee.

DISCUSSION

On June 12, 2006, Council adopted a Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) in the City of Surrey by way of a cooperative effort between the City, the RCMP, the Provincial and Federal Governments and not-for-profit and private sector agencies. A full time Crime Reduction Strategy Manager was hired to implement the Strategy.

The primary objectives of the Strategy are to:

1. Reduce crime and increase community safety;
2. Increase public involvement in reducing crime;
3. Increase integration between all stakeholders involved in crime reduction; and;
4. Improve public awareness around the reality and perception of crime.

The City's Social Planning Committee provides advice to Council and undertakes initiatives to enhance the social well-being of Surrey residents. The Committee liaises with public and private agencies and with other levels of government to encourage the provision of programs and services for Surrey's residents.

Through these initiatives City Council and staff have established and nurtured excellent working relationships with the police, the Attorney General's office, the Courts, Provincial and Federal Departments and Ministries, the School District, the Universities and a myriad of social service providers and local community groups.

These initiatives and others with which the City of Surrey is involved act in a more direct and meaningful manner to accomplish the same objectives as those at which the work of the Family Court Committee is targeted. The resources that are currently being spent on the subject Committee could be more effectively spent on these other City activities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize the City Clerk to forward a letter to the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, with a copy to the Attorney General's office, advising that as of December 31, 2009, the City of Surrey is withdrawing as a member of the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

Jane Sullivan
City Clerk