

NO: F026

COUNCIL DATE: October 17, 2011

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 11, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation  
and Culture**

FILE: **8200-01**

SUBJECT: **Financial Support for the 2011 Hargobind International Wrestling Event to be  
Held at the Guildford Recreation Centre**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that the Finance Committee:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Recommend to Council that it approve funding in the amount of \$11,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to offset the facility rental and equipment costs associated with the Hargobind International Wrestling Event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to recommend that funding from the Council Initiatives be provided in support of the 2011 Hargobind International Wrestling Event to be held at the Guildford Recreation Centre on November 5th, 2011.

## DISCUSSION

This elite international tournament was held at Simon Fraser University for over 30 years. The Hargobind Wrestling Association approached the City of Surrey in 2007 to be the first location outside of SFU to accommodate this event. The Guildford Recreation Centre was selected as a suitable location for the Event and has hosted the event in each of the last four years. Council approved funding from the Council Initiatives Fund to offset the costs of facility rentals and equipment costs for this event of \$5,000 in 2007, \$6,000 in 2008, \$10,000 in 2009 and \$6,800 in 2010.

As in previous years, the 2011 event will enhance the profile of Surrey's *Ahead of the Game* Sport Tourism initiative and will profile Surrey's wrestling community, which boasts the largest youth wrestling contingent in Metro Vancouver. In anticipation of participation by athletes from Mongolia and India in this year's event, it is expected that the total number of competitors competing in the event will exceed the totals of previous years, being 150 to 200 athletes. The event includes a variety of skill levels, including world-class athletes. The event is expected to

attract at least 2,000 spectators. This number is consistent with the number of spectators that last year's event drew on a daily basis.

The event continues to be a 2-day tournament. Day 1 will be the Canadian qualifying portion of the tournament from which the top Canadians will advance to Day 2. This year, the Hargobind Wrestling Association will hold the qualifying event at SFU to allow the Organizing Committee to have more time to prepare for the Guildford Recreation Centre for International Event to be held on Day 2.

The Hargobind Wrestling Association views this event as an opportunity to showcase the importance of wrestling as a disciplined, healthy and competitive activity for both genders and all ages.

The Association is not in a financial position to cover the rental costs for the Guildford Recreation Centre for the event, which will amount to approximately \$11,000. This amount includes the gym rental rates, the delivery and set up of the bleachers and the need for additional staffing for the event. The City's *Fee Waiver Policy* does not apply to facility rentals.

The Association has requested that the City provide financial support to the Association to offset the facility rental costs and other City-related expenses that will be incurred in relation to the event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre. A letter from the Hargobind International Wrestling Club requesting \$11,000 in financial assistance for the Event is attached as Appendix A. Staff has confirmed that the amount requested by the Association is equivalent to the charges and expenses that the City will incur in hosting the event and that would typically be charged back to the Association. Funding in support of the recommendation is available with the Council Initiatives Fund as documented in Appendix "B".

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that financial support in the amount of \$11,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund be provided to offset the facility rental and equipment costs for the Hargobind International Wrestling Event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre on November 5, 2011.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix A - Letter from Hargobind Wrestling Association  
Appendix B - Summary of Council Initiatives Fund Utilization



Hargobind Wrestling Association  
12876 85 Avenue  
Surrey, BC, Canada, V3W-0K8  
604-617-8000 (tel)  
604-599-1575 (fax)  
www.HargobindWrestling.com

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September 15, 2011

City of Surrey  
Parks, Recreation & Culture Department  
14245 – 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.

**Attention: Lisa White, Manager of Community and Leisure Services**

Dear Ms. White:

**Re: 2011 Hargobind International Wrestling Championship**  
*Request for Financial Assistance for Event*

The fifth annual Hargobind International Wrestling Championships are set to run on November 5, 2011 at the Guildford Recreation Center. Our goal is to be able to provide opportunities to aspiring athletes, along with assisting our youth in developing strong values and personal character. Athletes are taught the ideals of good sportsmanship, discipline, courage and respect.

We are a non-profit organization and many of our athletes are training toward attaining university scholarships through wrestling. Our organization is run by parental volunteer support for over 19 years and coaches are all former national champions. The club has produced over 30 medals from the senior National Championships and over 40 BC high school medalists. All of these athletes have put Surrey on the map both nationally and internationally.

We are raising funds through the community, as we have done for the past 21 years.

The tournament will bring many world and Olympic level athletes to Surrey. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our City and expose our youth to the world's top athlete's right here at home.

Assistance from the City of Surrey is much needed at this time. We are asking that you approve fees and hosting costs of up to \$11,000.00 for this championship event, as well as use of the wrestling mats owned by the city of Surrey.

Yours truly,

*Satnam Johal*

Satnam Johal



**2011 FINANCIAL PLAN  
COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
<b>2011 Proposed Budget</b>	<u>250,000</u>		<b>\$ 517,341</b>
Sponsor Appreciation Event	10,000		
RCMP 60th Anniversary Exhibit	20,000		
Surrey Minor Hockey - Provincial Championships	3,000		
Arts Umbrella Surrey	25,000		
2011 Flavours of Surrey Event	15,000		
Red FM 5th Annual Run	5,000		
Annual Pride Festival	1,000		
Mayor's Charity Ball	3,250		
2011 Canadian Junior Boys Golf Championship	10,000		
2012 Doors Opens Surrey Event	50,000		
Break the Silence on Violence Against Women	10,000		
Surrey Crime Prevention Society - Annual General Meeting & Awards	1,000		
SFU - Diwali Dinner	2,500		
SFU - Annual Gala Dinner	5,000		
SFU - Annual Gala Dinner - Councillor Attendance	2,000		
SASSY Awards	2,500		
Hargobind International Wrestling Championship	11,000		
<b>Allocations for 2011</b>		<u>\$ 176,250</u>	<u>\$ 341,091</u>