

NO: **F029**

COUNCIL DATE: **July 22, 2013**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 17, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **2013 Late Grant Application – Afghan Benevolent Association of BC related to 10644 City Parkway**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve a grant of \$1,825 to the Afghan Benevolent Association of BC to offset part of the property taxes payable for 2013 on the Society's property at 10644 City Parkway, which is illustrated on the air photo attached to this report as Appendix "A".

BACKGROUND

On November 28, 2012, the Finance Committee approved the City's "One Time" Grants for 2013. The City has recently received an application from the Afghan Benevolent Association of BC for financial assistance to offset some of the property taxes that are payable for 2013 on the Society's property at 10644 City Parkway, which is illustrated on Appendix "A" attached to this report.

DISCUSSION

The "Policy on City Grants" (D26) provides that late grant applications will only be considered in instances where the requirement for grant funds was not reasonably foreseeable prior to September 30th of the immediately preceding year (i.e., the deadline date by which grant requests are to be submitted to the City for the following year) and if the requirement for funding is critical to the survival of the organization or the event. The City on an annual basis provides under its legislated authority permissive property tax exemptions for places of worship in Surrey.

The Afghan Benevolent Association operates a worship/prayer hall on the subject property, which is located in North Surrey. The Society's property was not included in the list of 2013 permissive property tax exemptions due to a mistaken belief by the Afghan Benevolent Association that they were already receiving a permissive property tax exemption. The Society has applied for a City grant to offset some or all of the 2012 and 2013 property taxes payable on the subject property. The total property taxes for the property for 2012 were \$5,385.38 and for 2013 are \$3,889.98, of which \$2,456.80 and \$1,826.20, respectively, are the City's property taxes.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed the application and has determined that the request satisfies the grant criteria for a grant to offset 2013 property taxes for the subject property. As such, the Grants Evaluation Committee is proposing that a grant of \$1,825 be provided to the Society for the purpose of offsetting the cost of the 2013 property taxes for the subject property.

Statement of Remaining Funding in the 2013 Grants Budget:

The following is a summary of remaining balances in the City Grants Budget on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

Special Recognition Funds	\$2,500
Property Taxes	3,200
High School Dry Grads	550
One-time Grants	<u>11,200</u>
	<u>\$ 17,450</u>

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
General Manager,
Finance & Technology

Appendix "A": Air Photograph of the Property at 10644 City Parkway

APPENDIX "A"

LOCATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 10644 CITY PARKWAY:

