

NO: F052

COUNCIL DATE: **DECEMBER 15, 2014**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 10, 2014**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Crime Prevention Society – On-going Grant Increase**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve an increase of \$145,500 to the on-going annual grant that is provided to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society, for a total of \$230,000, to support the crime prevention initiatives undertaken throughout the City.

INTENT

The City has received a request from the Surrey Crime Prevention Society (SCPS) for a significant increase in the annual support that is provided to them by the City. This report addresses that request.

BACKGROUND

SCPS has been receiving some level of financial support from the City since their inception in 1982. In 1995, the City established an “on-going grant” of \$43,500 annually, to support their Crime Watch Patrol (now known as Citizens Community Safety Watch). In 2001, Council approved an additional \$25,000 annually, to support their Anti-Graffiti program. Since 2005, Library and Recreation Services also began to contract SCPS to undertake Community Safety Tours, Citizens Community Safety Watch and additional Anti-Graffiti clean-up on City property. In 2008, the City increased the annual on-going grant from \$68,500 to 82,500 and has only provided a modest increase of an additional \$1,000 in 2008 and 2009. The City now provides \$84,500 annually to SCPS from the Community Grant program and an additional \$55,300 from Library and Recreation budgets for a total of \$139,800 annually in financial support.

DISCUSSION

SCPS has been providing Crime Prevention Services to the City since 1982. These services include Community Safety Tours, Citizens Community Safety Watch, Traffic Safety Program and participation in special events. These services are delivered by over 350 volunteers who contributed over 26,000 volunteer hours in 2014. The City has contributed \$84,500 from the City

Grant Program and \$55,300 from Recreation and Libraries to assist SCPS in delivering their various programs.

As part of the 2015 Community Grant application process, SCPS requested an increase of \$145,500 to their annual on-going grant, which would bring their annual grant amount to \$230,000 and would see total funding increase to \$285,300. This increase is required to address the on-going demands throughout the City. Specific program increases include:

- Increasing the number of locations and the number of days per week that **Community Safety Tours** are conducted. This would see services begin in Cloverdale and South Surrey as well as services be expanded from three to five days per week.
- Increase the number of days per week that the **Citizens Community Safety Watches** are conducted. This would see service increase from two to four days per week.
- Increase the number of shifts that the **Traffic Safety – Speed Watch** program is delivered. This would increase service from one shift per day to two shifts per day.
- Increase the capacity of the **Anti-Graffiti** program to allow more clients to participate and improve the ability to address more community clean-up within the City.
- Support the **Mentorship and Leadership** program as well as the **LEAP – Learn Experience Achieve Participate** work experience program. The mentorship program works with youth at risk and leadership students in Surrey, while the LEAP program offers youth an opportunity to participate in SCPS programs with the support of their senior volunteers.
- Support attendance at **Special Events**. This allows SCPS to increase community awareness about their initiatives as well as providing information on actions that the general public can undertake to become more aware of crime and help to deter it.

Staff has evaluated this request and found that it supports the City's Crime Reduction Strategy by supporting public involvement in crime reduction and increasing public awareness, therefore staff are recommending that Council support an increase to the annual on-going community grant for SCPS from \$84,500 to \$230,000, with the funding to be included in the 2015 to 2019 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve an increase of \$145,500 to the on-going annual grant that is provided to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society to support the crime prevention initiatives undertaken throughout the City.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
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Finance & Technology