

NO: **F013**

COUNCIL DATE: **FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 2, 2015**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Grants to Offset Policing Costs for Community Events**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Finance and Technology Department recommend that the Finance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve a program that permits eligible community groups to apply for grants based on the criteria outlined in this report, to partially off-set policing costs associated with community-led special events, as outlined in **Appendix I** of this report;
3. Authorize the General Manager, Finance and Technology to approve grants in accordance with criteria set out in **Appendix I** of this report;
4. Direct staff to report to Council annually regarding the grants that were approved in the previous year; and
5. Approve an allocation of \$55,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund as shown in **Appendix II** of this report.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the current City practices in relation to charging groups for RCMP costs related to hosting community events. The report also provides a comparison to other Cities' practices and proposes a new grant program that will assist groups in off-setting policing costs.

BACKGROUND

Surrey embraces a diverse population from a broad range of cultural backgrounds and celebrates a rich blend of festivals and events that are accessible to all who live in Surrey. In addition, Surrey promotes active living for people of all ages and abilities, making venues available for a wide variety of sporting tournaments. Further, Surrey realizes economic benefits from the hosting of sport tournaments and special events in the City.

The City annually receives more than 140 applications from groups to hold special events and festivals on City property or on City streets. Events range from athletic tournaments to large scale parades to cultural festivals.

Surrey's Festival and Events Support Team (FEST) review applications and make recommendations to ensure that events are organized, safe and address a broad range of public interest, including noise, litter, traffic management, public health and emergency services.

Groups that are granted permits to hold special events may require City services, such as Fire Service response teams, the advertising of public notifications and policing costs. The cost of supplying these services is recovered from event organizers. The largest costs are generally associated with policing services, which are required to address public safety issues.

DISCUSSION

Policing of Special Events in Surrey

The **Special Events Regulation By-law No. 14731** ("the by-law") states that the level of police resources assigned to special events is two officers for events of up to 500 persons, and a further officer for each additional 250 persons anticipated to attend the event.

The by-law also provides that the Commanding Officer, based on a risk assessment, may reduce the number of officers, approve the use of Accredited Volunteers, and also approve the use of Accredited Private Security personnel. In addition, the Commanding Officer may also require the provision of a command post and other necessary security on and around the site.

Recovery of Policing Costs for Events

The by-law states "prior to the issuance of the event permit, payment for the additional policing services must be made to the City".

The charge-out rate for RCMP officers is \$105 per hour, which is inclusive of meals, overtime, and supervisory staff. RCMP vehicles that are required in support of special events are charged out at \$25 per hour. The following are examples of typical events held in Surrey, with the approximate value of the policing costs shown beside them:

1. City Events include Party for the Planet, Fusion Festival, Canada Day, Cloverdale Rodeo and Tree Lighting Festival. *The cost of policing for City events is covered within the City Police Budget.*
2. Third Party, Non-ticketed Events:
 - a) Small Events – Examples include:
 - i. Espirito Santo Parade
 - ii. Big Rig for Kids Lighted Trucks

These types of events observe standard rules of the road, and generally there are no police charges for them.

- b) Larger Events – Examples include:

- i. Vaisakhi Parade - \$74,000
- ii. Pioneer Day - \$11,000
- iii. Ride to Conquer Cancer - \$11,000
- iv. Indian Cultural Festival (Prof Mohan Singh) - \$10,500
- v. Miri Piri Parade - \$7,500
- vi. Jamaican Festival - \$1,800

To date, 100% of RCMP costs have been invoiced for these types of events.

3. Third Party Ticketed Events – Examples include:

- a) Mumford and Sons Private Concert - \$18,000
- b) Typical Kabaddi Tournament - \$7,000

To date, 100% of policing costs have been invoiced for ticketed events.

A number of non-profit groups that host public events have expressed concerns that policing costs are becoming prohibitive.

Recovery of Policing Costs in Other Cities

Staff have reviewed the recovery of policing costs in several other Lower Mainland Cities. Without exception, policing costs for events hosted by a City were absorbed within that City's police budget. For events put on by third parties, there were several different ways of dealing with policing costs. Some examples include:

- 1) Vancouver

- Partnered events (e.g. Chinese New Year Celebrations) – A percentage of total costs are subsidized by the City, ranging from 50-70%.
 - Third party events (e.g. Vancouver Marathon) – Event organizers pay policing costs, but can receive an off-set grant of up to \$1,000 per event. This greatly assists small community events. Vancouver has an annual event grant budget of \$100,000.
- 2) Richmond
- Third party events - Event organizers pay policing costs.
- 3) Burnaby
- Third party events – Event organizers pay policing costs, but are eligible for grants from Festivals Burnaby, ranging in size from \$4,000 – 25,000. The annual events grant budget is \$100,000.
- 4) Delta
- Third party events - Event organizers pay policing costs.
- 5) Coquitlam
- Third party events – Event organizers pay policing costs but are eligible for grants that are based on the size and scope of the events. Coquitlam has an annual budget of \$175,000 for events.

PROPOSED CITY OF SURREY PROGRAM FOR GRANTS TO OFF-SET POLICING COSTS

The following proposed program outlines the criteria under which community groups can apply to the City for grants to partially off-set the costs of Policing services:

This Grants Program applies only to events, parades and festivals:

- held on City lands or on City streets, in accordance with the **Special Events Regulation By-law No. 14731**;
- where any member of the general public can attend free of charge; and
- where RCMP officers are in attendance and the City has invoiced the hosting organization for recovery of policing costs.

This Grant Program *does not* apply to events:

- that are admission-based (ticketed) where the host organization is charging a fee for entry to the event or for participation in the event, whether paid in advance, at the time of entry, or at any time throughout the duration of the event.

Hosting organizations that have paid 100% of invoiced policing costs prior to the event may apply in writing to the City for a grant in the amount of **50% of invoiced policing costs, to a maximum of \$35,000.**

Only those organizations that are in good standing with the City may apply for a grant to off-set policing costs. Organizations **would not** be considered to be in good standing if they:

- have any outstanding payments to the City;
- are in breach of City by-laws;
- are in litigation against the City.

Funding

Based on known or anticipated events, it is expected that the proposed Grant Program for 2015 would cost approximately **\$55,000.**

No specific funding for the proposed Grant Program has been identified in the 2015 Operating Budget or the Five-Year Financial Plan. Should Council wish to proceed with the proposed Grant Program in 2015, funding could be taken from the 2015 Council Initiatives Budget a copy of which is attached as **Appendix II.**

Should Council approve this program, staff will review it thoroughly during the next budget preparation and bring forward recommendations for including future year's grants in the 2016-2020 Five Year Financial Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed Grant Program will assist in achieving the goals of the City's Sustainability Charter, specifically:

- Socio-Cultural Goal #12: Establishing a range of local cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout the City; and
- Socio-Cultural Goal #13: Promoting a variety of opportunities for community celebration and gathering through local and City-wide events and festivals.

CONCLUSION

In order to promote community-based events and celebrations that improve the quality of life for our residents, and which can provide indirect financial benefits to our business community, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve a program that permits eligible community groups to apply for grants to partially off-set policing costs associated with community-led special events, as outlined in **Appendix I** of this report;
2. Authorize the General Manager, Finance and Technology to approve grants in accordance with criteria set out in **Appendix I** of this report; and
3. Direct staff to report to Council on a quarterly basis regarding the grants that were approved in the previous quarter;
4. Direct staff to report to Council annually regarding the grants that were approved in the previous year; and
5. Approve an allocation of \$55,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund as shown in **Appendix II** of this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
General Manager
Finance & Technology

Appendix I – Program for Grants to Partially Off-set Policing Costs for Special Events
Appendix II – Status of Council Initiatives Fund

OCC/vw

Program for Grants to Partially Off-set Policing Costs for Special Events

The following outlines the eligibility criteria under which community groups can apply to the City for grants to partially off-set the costs of policing services:

This Grants Program applies only to events, parades and festivals:

1. held on City lands or on City streets, in accordance with the **Special Events Regulation By-law No. 14731**;
2. where any member of the general public can attend free of charge; and
3. where RCMP officers are in attendance and the City has invoiced the hosting organization for recovery of policing costs.

This Grant Program *does not* apply to events that are admission-based (ticketed) where the host organization is charging a fee for entry to the event or for participation in the event, whether paid in advance, at the time of entry, or at any time throughout the duration of the event.

Hosting organizations that have paid 100% of invoiced policing costs prior to the event may apply in writing to the General Manager, Finance & Technology for a grant in the amount of **50% of invoiced policing costs, to a maximum of \$35,000.**

Only those organizations that are in good standing with the City may apply for a grant to off-set policing costs. Organizations **would not** be considered to be in good standing if they:

- have any outstanding payments to the City;
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Appendix II



2015 FINANCIAL PLAN COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date
Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	
2015 Approved Budget	250,000	
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 3 of 5)		40,000
2015 Façade Enhancement Program		25,000
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 1 of 3)		10,000
2015 Sponsor Appreciation Event (Proposed)		10,000
SANSU Addictions Education Series (Proposed)		2,400
Surrey Knights Swim Club (Proposed)		3,000
2015 CBHA Western Challenge Cup (Proposed)		3,500
2015 BC Hockey Pee Wee Championship (Proposed)		2,000
Elleven Management SX Cup 2015 (Proposed)		4,000
Surrey Steps Up: Youth Engagement Campaign (Proposed)		10,000
Policing Costs for Community Events (Proposed)		55,000
Allocations for 2015		\$ 164,900