

NO: R087

COUNCIL DATE: **May 25, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 14, 2015**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Late Grant Application – VISHWA International Yoga Day**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that Council approve a grant of \$1,000 to VISHWA, in support of their International Yoga Day event that will be held on June 21, 2015 at the Guildford Recreation Centre.

BACKGROUND

On February 2, 2015, Council approved the City's "One Time" Grants for 2015. Since that time, the City has received a late grant application from Varad Ashram Intercultural Services Humanitarian World Association (VISHWA). VISHWA is seeking financial support for their "United Nations International Yoga Day" festival that will be at the Guildford Recreational Centre on June 21st, 2015. This report will address that request.

DISCUSSION

Varad Ashram Intercultural Service Humanitarian World Association (VISHWA) is a non-profit, non-sectarian association that focus' on the physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual development, especially with children and elders. The objective of the organization is to bring people of diverse traditions and cultures together in an experience of Unity in Diversity.

On June 21, 2015, VISHWA will be holding their first United Nations International Yoga Day Festival. This event will be held at the Guildford Recreation Centre. This event will be a full day event that will offer the community an opportunity to participate in several different types of yoga, such as Swadhyaya (reflection of traditional yoga), laughter yoga, children's yoga and bhakti (music and celebration yoga).

VISHWA anticipates that 1,500 people will attend with a total cost of \$15,000. VISHWAS has requested a \$5,000 contribution from the City to help offset the cost of the venue costs for this event.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has evaluated this request and have determined that the requested grant meets the grant evaluation criteria. Given that this is the first event of this nature by VISHWA and in recognition of grant awards of a similar nature, the Grants Evaluation Committee recommends that Council approve a grant of \$1,000 to the VISHWA, in order to help off-set the venue costs for their International Yoga Day Festival on June 21, 2015.

Statement of Remaining Funding in the 2015 Grants Budget:

Should Council approve the Grants Evaluation Committee recommendation, the following is a summary of remaining balances in the City Grants Budget:

Special Recognition	\$ 2,500
High School Dry Grads	\$ 3,250
One-time Grants	<u>\$ 4,925</u>
Total Remaining in Grants Budget	<u>\$ 10,675</u>

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