

NO: R007

COUNCIL DATE: January 11, 2016

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 5, 2016**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Late Grant Application – HOPE Symposium**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that Council approve a grant of \$1,500 to the HOPE Project of the Muslim Food Bank and ASPIRE Community Services in support of their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HOPE Symposium on Mental Health and Addiction in the Muslim Community, to be held on March 19, 2016 at SFU Surrey.

## BACKGROUND

On November 30, 2015, Council approved the City's "One Time" Grants for 2016. Since that time, the City has received a late grant application from the HOPE Project of the Muslim Food Bank and ASPIRE Community Services. The HOPE Project is seeking financial support for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HOPE Symposium on Mental Health and Addiction in the Muslim Community that is to be held at SFU Surrey on March 19, 2016. This report will address that request.

## DISCUSSION

The HOPE Project (Healing Opportunity through Prevention and Education) was initiated under the umbrella of the Muslim Food Bank and Community Services and strives to empower and support youth and their families that are experiencing mental health or addiction issues through peer support and by connecting them to community outreach. The HOPE Project will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Mental Health and Addiction in the Muslim Community titled "Bridging the Gap: Hope, Health and Healing". This event will take place at SFU Surrey on March 19, 2016 and will include four breakout sessions on Family Disputes, Mental Health, Community Building and Youth Issues in an effort to educate and empower the Muslim community.

HOPE Project anticipates that approximately 150 people will attend this event with a total cost of \$12,825. It is expected that 500 volunteer hours will be contributed which are valued at approximately \$5,225, along with a \$1,000 donation from the Muslim Food Bank. The HOPE Project has requested that the City provide the remaining funding of \$6,600.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has evaluated this request and has determined that the requested grant meets the grant evaluation criteria. The Grants Evaluation Committee recommends that Council approve a grant of \$1,500, which is consistent with the grants provided for similar events.

**Statement of Remaining Funding in the 2016 Grants Budget:**

Should Council approve the Grants Evaluation Committee recommendation, the following is a summary of remaining balances for the 2016 City Grants Budget:

	<u>Unallocated</u>
Special Recognition Funds	\$ 5,000
Property Taxes	2,800
High School Dry Grads	3,000
One-time Grants	11,750
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	\$ 22,550
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