

NO: R130

COUNCIL DATE: May 30, 2016

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: May 29, 2016**

FROM: General Manager, Finance & Technology **FILE: 1850-20**

SUBJECT: Funding Request - Ethar Organization's Trip to the Cloverdale Rodeo

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve the payment for Ethar's Cloverdale Rodeo tickets in the amount of \$2,688 utilizing the 2016 Council Initiatives budget.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to request that Mayor and Council support a funding request from the Council Initiatives fund to support the "Ethar Organization".

BACKGROUND

"Ethar" is a word which means "altruism" or "selflessness" in Arabic. The "Ethar Organization" is the name of the newly formed group of Arabic speaking newcomers who now call the Guildford area of the City home, most of the members of Ethar arrived in Canada within the past year as refugees from Syria and Iraq. The group is composed of youth aged 13-18 and is led by 4 Arabic speaking young men in their early 20's. The group leaders have experience leading youth groups through the Boy Scouts in their home countries, and have started Ethar to help share their culture with residents of their new City and to organize the youth in volunteer efforts in the Guildford area. They have secured a Neighborhood Small Grant through the Vancouver Foundation to help support their efforts and the City of Surrey is providing the group with free meeting space at the Guildford Recreation center.

Since its formation in May of 2016, Ethar has grown to over 50 youth members and continues to grow. The group meets on a weekly basis and is planning on hosting an event this summer to showcase the youth and share their culture and history.

DISCUSSION

On Sunday May 22nd, 40 members of Ethar (5 group leaders and 35 youth) visited the Cloverdale Rodeo. The group met at the Guildford Recreation Centre and took public transit to the Rodeo site. The group spent the entire day enjoying the Cloverdale Rodeo and the Country Fair, with many experiencing spectacles like barrel racing, bull riding and the various rides for the very first time.

Ethar not only enjoyed the Rodeo and Country Fair but also learned more about the history and culture of their new home in the City of Surrey.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council approve the payment of \$2,688 to pay for Ethar's tickets to the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair, utilizing the 2016 Council Initiatives Budget. Appendix "I" attached to this report provides information on the balance of the Council Initiatives Fund on the assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

Vivienne Wilke, CPA, CGA
General Manager,
Finance & Technology

Appendix "I": Status of the Council Initiatives Fund

Appendix "I"



2016 FINANCIAL PLAN
COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	2,800		
2016 Proposed Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 252,800
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 4 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 2 of 3)		10,000	
SFU Surrey Campus Open House		15,000	
City of Surrey Busary		10,000	
Seeds Business Awards		4,000	
PICS Diversity City Sponsorship		5,000	
Bridal Week Vancouver		5,000	
100 Year Journey Gala Sponsorship		6,000	
Pride Festival		5,000	
Seniors Volunteer Project		75,000	
Ethar Trip to Cloverdale Rodeo (Proposed)		2,688	
Allocations for 2016		<u>\$ 177,688</u>	<u>\$ 75,100</u>