

NO: R021

COUNCIL DATE: February 6, 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: January 16, 2017**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering **FILE: 1850-01**
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

SUBJECT: Gratitude Garden at 156 Street and King George Boulevard

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department and the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council direct staff to undertake the necessary steps to convert the portion of road allowance (approximately 0.46 acres in size) located along the eastern side of 156 Street immediately north of King George Boulevard to “parkland”.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the City acquired a parcel of land at 2248 King George Boulevard (the “Property”), which was originally 1.00 acre in size as generally illustrated on the attached Appendix “I”, in order to facilitate the realignment of 156 Street at the intersection of King George Boulevard. The realignment of 156 Street was an essential public safety project undertaken to enhance the geometry of the prior intersection. Upon finalizing the realignment of 156 Street, a 0.46 acre remnant area of dedicated road allowance remained (the “Remainder Land”) along the eastern side of 156 Street immediately north of King George Boulevard.

Subsequent to the 156 Street road realignment project being completed, several South Surrey residents, including Mr. Arian Bilodeau, devoted considerable time and resources on a volunteer basis in establishing a “pocket garden” upon the Remainder Land, firstly as a memorial, and thereafter as a neighbourhood “community garden”. On May 25, 2015, City Council approved a Community Enhancement Partnership Grant for the Gratitude Garden Project, pursuant to Regular Council Corporate Report No. R092;2015 attached to this report as Appendix “II”. The community garden concept at this location has also been endorsed by the prior City Mayor, Dianne Watts, in November 2012, as noted in the letter attached to this report as Appendix “III”.

DISCUSSION

In response to inquiries from several potential buyers as to the possible sale of the Remainder Land, and because the Remainder Land was not designated or identified for parkland purposes, Realty staff initiated its standard due-diligence process to assess whether the Remainder Land would be a candidate for a sale to the market at-large. Part of the due-diligence process included the investigation of potential land-use development concepts considering that the Remainder Land is designated commercial in the King George Highway/Highway 99 Corridor Local Area Plan. Communication by staff with Mr. Bilodeau resulted in Mr. Bilodeau expressing considerable concern about the possible future sale of the Remainder Land. Subsequent to this expression of concern by Mr. Bilodeau, appreciation of Mr. Bilodeau’s longstanding beautification efforts at the Gratitude Garden have been further articulated by members of the public.

While the Remainder Land is not currently identified within the City's Park Program, nor currently titled as an existing legal lot, staff are recommending that the potential sale of the Remainder Land no longer be explored and that the status quo of the Remainder Land be maintained, while the following steps, as outlined below, are undertaken:

1. Staff to bring forward a Bylaw to close and remove the dedication as highway of the portion of road allowance located along the eastern side of 156 Street immediately north of King George Boulevard, subject to compliance with the advertising requirements of the *Community Charter* legislation;
2. That the new lot, once created, be designated for "parkland" purposes; and
3. That the new lot, once created, be converted from a transportation asset to a park asset.

Parks, Recreation & Culture Department Comments

Parks staff have reviewed the potential for the Remainder Land to be converted to parkland. The City's Mini Park and Plaza Policy outlines criteria to plan and design smaller parks, as pressure on existing parkland increases. The following points arise from that policy:

- At 0.46 acres in size, the Remainder Land is slightly under the minimum size of 0.7 acres, as identified in the Policy;
- The Remainder Land has good sightlines with a long frontage from 156 Street;
- The Remainder Land is in an area with moderate density that is experiencing infill development, further increasing the density; and
- The closest parks are Jessie Lee and Sunnyside Parks, which are 1,000 metres away from each other. The Remainder Land is sited approximately halfway between each park which helps fulfill having a park within walking distance (400 - 500 metres) for local residents.

It is beneficial when residents help identify and champion possible parkland. Advocacy and engagement are key indicators of a healthy community, and it is important for the City to support engaged neighbourhoods.

CONCLUSION

Based on the public support of the Gratitude Garden, staff recommend that Council direct staff to undertake the necessary steps to convert the portion of road allowance (approximately 0.46 acres in size) located along the eastern side of 156 Street immediately north of King George Boulevard to "parkland".

Fraser Smith, P.Eng., MBA
General Manager,
Engineering

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

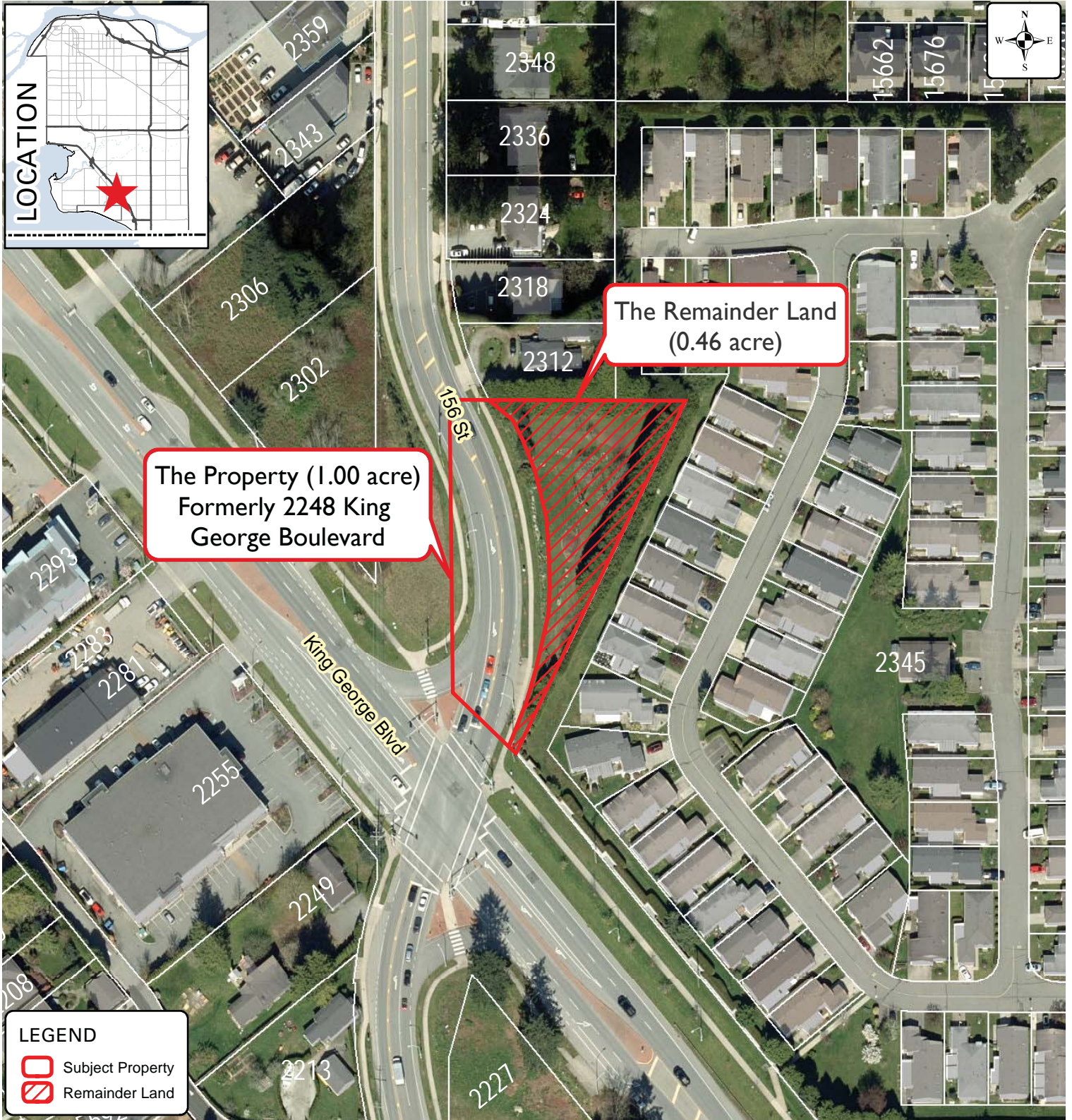
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Appendix "I" - Aerial Photograph of Site

Appendix "II" - Corporate Report No. R092;2015

Appendix "III" - Letter of support by prior City Mayor, Dianne Watts, dated November 8, 2012

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SITE



Produced by GIS Section: 05-Jan-2017, P205934

Date of Aerial Photograph: March 30, 2016

Scale: 1:1,500 0 10 M



Gratitude Garden

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The data provided is compiled from various sources and IS NOT warranted as to its accuracy or sufficiency by the City of Surrey. This information is provided for information and convenience purposes only. Lot sizes, Legal descriptions and encumbrances must be confirmed at the Land Title Office.

Source: G:\MAPPING\GIS\Maps\CorporateReps\Reality\P20_2248-kgb_reality.mxd

NO: **R092**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 25, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 12, 2015**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **1850-01**
General Manager, Finance and Technology

SUBJECT: **Community Enhancement Partnership (CEP) Program Grant Applications –
Gratitude Garden Project**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Finance & Technology Department recommend that Council approve the following grant recommendation:

A CEP Program grant of up to \$3,000 to the “Gratitude Garden” Project at 156 Street and King George Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

In January 2010 Council adopted the Community Enhancement Partnership (CEP) Program, which is intended to provide financial support for projects focussed on community engagement and neighbourhood beautification. Under the CEP Program, residents and community groups may apply to the City for a grant under either of two separate categories; these being:

- **Small Project Grants** - to support in planning, organizing and implementing projects intended to directly improve the physical aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood; or
- **Partnership Grants** - to support projects that build community relationships through celebration and activity.

The CEP Program Guidelines are attached as **Appendix I**. The CEP Program has an annual budget of \$25,000.

The community has been notified of this program through stakeholder mail-outs, newspaper ads, press releases, promotional posters at civic facilities and on the City’s website. A Grant Selections Committee has been established with representatives from various Departments and is responsible for assessing grant applications that are received under the Program. Sixty five (65) CEP Program grants have been approved to date by City Council.

The following sections of this report provide a description and evaluation of an application for a grant under the CEP Program that was recently received by the City.

DISCUSSION

Gratitude Garden at 156th Street and King George Boulevard

Over the past seven years, two South Surrey residents have created a pocket garden on City road Right of Way at 156th Street and King George Boulevard. (**Appendix II**). The garden has become a popular gathering space for local community members and has been noted in the media “bringing pleasure to hundreds of neighbours in the area.” The City had been considering selling this surplus Road Right of Way property, but when made aware of the importance of this site to the community, staff decided to maintain the status quo until further development in the area.

The residents would like to continue to expand the garden site and further involve the community in the planting and maintenance of the site. They estimate the cost for plants, supplies and materials for the garden at \$3,000. The funding will be used to purchase trees, perennials, annuals and bulbs as well as garden tools and supplies. The required tools include a wheelbarrow, soaker hose, fertilizer, lawn seed, loppers, lawnmower parts, shovel, gloves and plant tape to help with garden maintenance. The residents will also be fabricating a welcome sign for the garden that will be reviewed by the City before installation.

The residents volunteer over 300 hours per year in the garden and intend to host a “Gratitude Garden Blitz Day” to encourage local neighbours to get involved in the garden project. The residents will be visiting local housing co-ops and nearby seniors’ residence to help enlist garden volunteers.

Based on a review of the project according to the CEP Program criteria, a grant of up to \$3,000 for the Gratitude Garden at 156th Street and King George Boulevard is considered reasonable, subject to the group submitting photographs documenting the progress and outcomes of the project.

Funding

Appendix III provides information on the status of funding related to the Community Enhancement Partnership Program based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The CEP Program supports the goals of the City’s Sustainability Charter by encouraging social connections, volunteerism, community ownership and citizen engagement, in accordance with the Sustainability Charter Goals SC 6, 7, 8 and 13.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a CEP Program grant of up to \$3,000 for the “Gratitude Garden” project at 156 Street and King George Boulevard.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Vivienne Wilke, CPA, CGA
General Manager
Finance and Technology

Appendix I: CEP Program Overview and Guidelines

Appendix II: Project Details and Location

Appendix III: Status of Community Enhancement Partnership Program Funding

CEP Program Overview and Guidelines



Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP) Program Overview and Guidelines

The Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP) is an initiative of Council to encourage neighbourhood projects and activities that beautify our streets and public spaces.

Through the Program, residents, groups and businesses can apply to the City for a grant to plan, organize and implement small beautification projects, activities and celebrations. Successful applicants match their requested grant amount with contributions of volunteer labour and services, donated materials, and/or cash. The Program is a partnership in which the applicant and the City contribute equally towards the applicants proposed project.

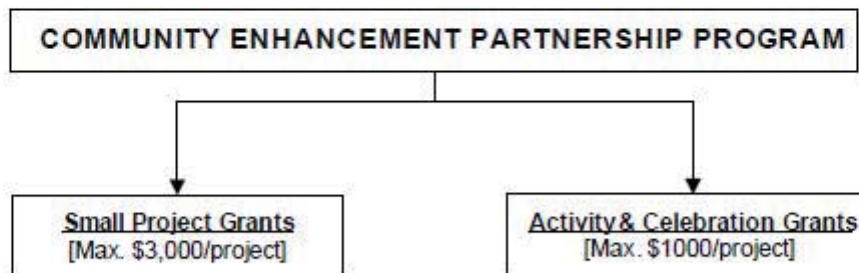
FUNDING CRITERIA & ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to all Surrey residents, students, community groups, organizations or associations. Small businesses will also be considered for street or landscaping beautification projects. All applications must encourage neighbourhood participation without discrimination. Projects must be undertaken within the geographic boundaries of Surrey. All applicants must demonstrate their project or activity will:

- focus on “beautifying and celebrating Surrey”;
- generate a public benefit in an inclusive and cooperative manner;
- involve members of the community in the project;
- commit to overseeing the project and any resulting maintenance;
- have broad neighbourhood support; and
- fall within one of the Project Grant Types listed below.

PROJECT GRANT TYPES

The Program has two separate grant categories as illustrated below.



i) **Small Project Grants**

Small project grants have a maximum amount of \$3,000 per project. They are offered to support planning, organizing and implementing projects that physically improve the appearance of the City. As examples, a neighbourhood garden, boulevard landscaping, community pathway, floral tree plantings, decorative lighting display or a neighbourhood entrance feature would fall under this category. Creativity is encouraged.

Projects in this category must be completed within twelve (12) months of a grant being awarded.

ii) **Activity & Celebration Grants**

Activity and celebration grants have a maximum amount of \$1,000 per project. They are offered to support community activism and celebration. Projects should engage, educate and celebrate community members. As examples, a neighbourhood festival or block party, a street clean-up day, a property owner awards program or a neighbourhood improvement campaign would fall under this category.

Projects that create opportunities to develop neighbourhood organization and promote community leadership, such as citizen engagement workshops or anti-graffiti training seminars, are also encouraged.

Projects in this category must be completed within six (6) months of a grant being awarded.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & RECOGNITION

For awarded projects, photos must be submitted to the City as a permanent record and for potential posting on the City's website and within local newspapers. All projects under the Program will be eligible for Civic Beautification Awards and/or plaque or site markers.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Awarded projects may be subject to inspection by City staff during project work and upon completion.
- Applicants that have failed to undertake projects, as outlined on submitted applications, may be eliminated from consideration for future grant opportunities.
- Applicants are required to abide by all Municipal, Provincial and Federal laws and regulations.
- The City of Surrey reserves the right to remove any physical installations or improvements on public land at any time.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Each application will be evaluated by a grant evaluation committee using the following evaluation criteria and within available funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Overall Community Enhancement Program Objective

- Project corresponds with the objective to “beautify **and** celebrate Surrey”.

Project Proposal & Feasibility

- Provides a clear description of what the project is and why it is proposed.
- Provides a clear public benefit.
- Is well planned with a realistic timeline and a clear beginning and end.
- Has a reasonable budget.

Community Building

- Community contribution is documented, demonstrating broad community participation and support for the project.
- Encourages inclusive community participation and provides opportunity to bring people together.
- Encourages interaction between different groups, such as different ethnic groups, tenants, seniors and business owners.
- Encourages collaboration between all age groups, particularly youth and adults.

Outcomes

- There is a clear understanding of how the community will be improved as a result of the project, with anticipated outcomes clearly documented.
- Project is designed for low maintenance and the applicant and stakeholders commit to project maintenance, with the majority of maintenance undertaken by the applicant.

Grants will **NOT** be awarded to/for:

- The purpose of private gain.
- Government agencies, political or partisan groups, formal business associations, universities, exclusive clubs or associations, newspapers and non-Surrey-based organizations (based or originating).
- Applicants who have failed to document a community contribution.
- Applicants who have failed to successfully carry out or maintain a project for which a grant was previously awarded.

Grants must **NOT** be used to:

- Duplicate an existing public or private program.
- Support ongoing programs or services.
- Replace funding lost from other sources or provide gap funding.
- Pay for the applicants operating expenses that are not directly related to the project for which the grant is awarded.
- Purchase land or buildings.
- Pay for out of City travel expenses.
- Pay for expenditures or financial commitments made before the organization's grant application was submitted.

Project Details and Location



This image shows the planted border along 156 St. The border was created over 7 years with the residents growing hundreds of annuals and perennials from seed.

Status of Community Enhancement Partnership Program Funding

Description	Amount	Allocation to	
		Date	Remaining
2009 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2010 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2011 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2012 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2013 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2014 Budget Allocation	\$ 25,000.00		
2015 Budget Allocation	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 200,000.00
Carried Forward from Previous Years		\$ 50,300.00	
Grants awarded in 2013			
31. West Panorama Ratepayers	\$ 3,000.00		
32. Fun Fun Playground Project	\$ 1,000.00		
33. Hall's Prairie Earth Day Project	\$ 1,000.00		
34. Hillcrest Elementary Boulevard Landscape	\$ 2,860.00		
35. Alexandra Neighbourhood House Community Garden	\$ 3,000.00		
36. Blockwatch 3-230 Chimney Hill	\$ 300.00		
37. Port Kells Farmer's Market	\$ 2,000.00		
38. Middleleg Place Block Clean-up and Celebration	\$ 793.00		
39. Panorama Neighbourhood Association	\$ 1,000.00		
40. Surrey Urban Mission	\$ 1,000.00		
41. Sources- Food For Thought	\$ 3,000.00		
42. FCA Swank Storyboard	\$ 3,000.00		
Grants awarded in 2014			
43. West Panorama Ratepayers Delta View	\$ 3,000.00		
44. Friends of the Grove	\$ 1,000.00		
45. Keys Health- Street Sweepers Social Club	\$ 3,000.00		
46. Whalley's Corner Community Festival	\$ 1,000.00		
47. Fleetwood 84th Ave Café StreetFEST	\$ 1,000.00		
48. FACADE- 10729 King George Blvd- Yang Family	\$ 1,260.00		
49. East Panorama street clean up	\$ 300.00		
50. Panorama Neighbourhood Association	\$ 1,000.00		
51. Strettrich HipHop Society	\$ -		
52. Spirit Garden Trellises	\$ 3,000.00		
53. 101A Ave Block Party	\$ 400.00		
54. FACADE- 10768 King George Blvd Flamingo Hotel	\$ 2,615.00		
55. 124th and 68th Ave boulevard planting	\$ 300.00		
56. FACADE- 7 Days Grocery	\$ 3,000.00		
57. Ocean Park Community Association Winter Wonderland	\$ 900.00		
Grants awarded in 2015 (to date)			
58. Friends of the Grove	\$ 1,000.00		
59. Hall's Prairie Stream of Dreams	\$ 1,000.00		
60. Frost Road Elementary and HASTe BC	\$ 1,000.00		
61. Kylie Ai/Indigo Townhouse Complex	\$ 300.00		
62. FACADE- Old Surrey Restaurant	\$ 3,000.00		
63. DiverseCity Street Patio	\$ 3,000.00		
64. Crescent Park Garden	\$ 3,000.00		
65. W.E. King Fence Project	\$ 2,912.00		
66. Panorama Picnic in the Park (proposed)	\$ 1,000.00		
67. FACADE- Yang Family Gateway Medical (proposed)	\$ 1,520.00		
69. Gratitude Garden Project (proposed)	\$ 3,000.00		
Total allocations :	\$ 64,862.00	\$ 115,212.00	\$ 29,238.00

CITY OF SURREY

November 8, 2012

File: 0220-05M



Mr. Adrian Bilodeau
2312 156 St.
Surrey, B.C. V4A 5A5

Dear Adrian:

Re: Volunteer Community Garden along 156 St.

On behalf of Surrey City Council, I would like to thank you for the time and effort you have poured in to the community garden project you undertook along 156 St.

I was notified by Mayor Baldwin of White Rock about this wonderful project that you have undertaken over the years and wanted to express my sincere appreciation for the work you have done. This sets a prime example for Surrey residents of what it means to give back to the community. It is also wonderful to hear how you have undertaken this project in memory of your father and would like to have a plaque placed to honour him.

As you continue along in your gardening and desire to obtain a plaque, I wish you the very best. Along with this letter, you will find a gift from us to show you our appreciation for all the work you have done to contribute to Surrey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dianne L. Watts". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Dianne L. Watts
Mayor

c.c. Mayor Wayne Baldwin, City of White Rock