

NO: R083

COUNCIL DATE: **May 8, 2017**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 4, 2017**

FROM: **Director, Public Safety**

FILE: **7450-30**

SUBJECT: **Public Safety Strategic Initiatives - Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative Funding Allocation**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's office recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information, and;
2. Approve annual funding in the amount of \$50,000, for a maximum of three consecutive years, 2017, 2018 and 2019, to the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative program in Surrey, for total funding of \$150,000.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to request that Mayor and Council support budgeted funding for the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative to expand their program as identified in the Public Safety Strategy.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Public Safety Strategy the City of Surrey is partnering with several agencies to ensure a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy. One of the 35 strategic initiatives of the Strategy is the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative, which is operated by a non-profit society. Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative ("Yo Bro Yo Girl") is an outreach program delivered in 8 schools, learning centres and recreation centres after school-hours. The program is intended for youth at-risk of involvement in drugs, violence and gangs. Delivered at both the elementary and high-school level, some of the core programs include *Taking it to the Streets*, *Keep it Real*, *Respectful Relationships*, *Know means No*, *Team Yo Bro*, and *Team Yo Girl*. The programs reach boys (Yo Bro) and girls (Yo Girl), aged 12 to 18 years, and allows older participants to play a mentorship role. The goal of the Yo Bro Yo Girl initiative is to improve the well-being of at-risk youth and strengthen their connections to their schools, the community, and existing resources.

Participation in the program grows each year. In 2014 they worked with 450 youth. With funding support from the City, Yo Bro Yo Girl will expand to ten locations, including elementary schools and will be able to extend program participation by providing opportunities for 900 youth.

In 2015, the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative received \$10,000 from Council Initiatives to support the R2 Respectful and Responsible Relationships Initiative, which is now a core program of Yo Bro Yo Girl.

DISCUSSION

The mission of Yo Bro Yo Girl is to engage at-risk youth in their schools and communities so they attain the skills and values necessary to realize their educational and career potential and contribute to the safety and well-being of their communities. Yo Bro Yo Girl has demonstrated strong results in their first several years. Using an asset based evaluation framework the program seeks to continually improve their positive impact on youth by ensuring ongoing development meets identified need. In their 2016 program evaluation the following results were found:

- 80% report feeling physically and psychologically safe
- 80% state that the programs provide appropriate structure
- 75% state that the programs provide supportive relationships
- 77.5% state that the programs provide opportunities to belong
- 80% state that the programs build positive social norms
- 75% state that the programs support efficacy and mattering
- 77.5% state that the programs provide opportunities for skill building

To support the continued expansion of the program into additional secondary and elementary schools in Surrey, the program is included as strategic initiative in the Public Safety Strategy.

Funding

Funding for this initiative has been built into the Public Safety Strategy 2017 budget through the one-time allocation funds held by the Finance department. Further funding has been identified through this process, and will be considered for two subsequent years (2018 and 2019) to allow the program to continue to grow and build long-term sources of sustainable funding. An annual program review will occur to ensure all aspects of the program are meeting the stated goal of increased participation and enhanced resiliency prior to distribution of funding in 2018 and 2019.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the City of Surrey Public Safety Strategy supports full implementation of the Public Safety theme in the Sustainability Charter 2.0, allowing us to significantly deliver on all related Desired Outcomes and Strategic Directions outlined in the Sustainability Charter 2.0.

The Public Safety Strategy also supports the Health and Wellness theme. Specifically the strategy supports the following Health and Wellness Theme Desired Outcomes:

- Do6 - Residents participate in a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities.
- Do8 - Residents feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, and have opportunities for social interaction in their neighbourhoods and community.

CONCLUSION

The Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth initiative has demonstrated their ability to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. The organization is a valuable public safety partner and are active in all of our programming. This support will allow them to continue to play this valuable role in 2017 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Waterhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Terry Waterhouse
Director, Public Safety

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