

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: May 1, 2017**

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

SUBJECT: Late Grant Application - Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve additional support of \$3,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund, to the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society (“Society”) to support the provision of free transportation services to cancer patients; and
2. Direct staff to include an On-going Grant to the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society in the amount of \$5,000 in the 2018 Financial Plan, subject to the conditions identified in this report.

BACKGROUND

On November 21, 2016, Council approved the City’s Community Grants for 2017. On February 20, 2017, Council approved a late grant of \$1,500 to the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society to support their volunteer driver program which provides free transportation services to cancer patients. The Society has since requested additional financial support; this report will address that request.

DISCUSSION

In February 2016, the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society re-launched a volunteer driver program for cancer patients in the Metro Vancouver area, a service that had previously been provided by the Canadian Cancer Society. In March 2016, Council approved a grant of \$5,000 to the Society to assist with the start-up costs associated with the re-launch of this program. In 2016, the Society transported approximately 300 cancer patients for treatment, diagnosis, and follow-up care each month, and that number is expected to be over 500 in 2017. The average cost of this service to Surrey is approximately \$28.25 per trip with about 40% of all trips serving patients from Surrey.

The Society was seeking a grant of \$10,000 to assist them in providing volunteer driver services in 2017. The City of Surrey Community Grants Budget contained \$5,650 in unallocated funds for One-time Grants. The evaluation committee had recommended and Council approved a grant of \$1,500 in February, due to the limited amount of funds available for one-time grant funding.

The Society has requested that further consideration be given to the amount of financial support, citing the financial struggles of delivering this service to so many Surrey residents. Through discussions with the group, it was identified that most municipalities benefitting from this service, are providing support to the organization. It was also determined that the funding support is needed on an on-going basis.

The Grants Evaluation Committee reviewed this request and is recommending that Council approve an additional grant of \$3,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund as the one-time grants funding is insufficient to support this request. In addition, the committee is recommending that Council instruct staff to include an On-going Grant of \$5,000 in the 2018 Financial Plan, provided the organization maintains funding from at least three other municipalities in the region.

FUNDING

Appendix "I" attached to this report documents the balance in the Council Initiatives Fund based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Through the array of grants and sponsorships provided to community groups, the City is able to support the objectives of the Sustainability Charter. This request will specifically support the following Desired Outcomes:

- Health and Wellness DO2: Universally accessible physical and mental health care and support is available;
- Health and Wellness SD1: Connect, facilitate and support people and organizations in innovative alliances for delivery of social, health and wellness programs;
- Inclusion DO22: There is a high rate of volunteerism among people of all ages and abilities; and
- Inclusion SD16: Enhance the opportunities available for residents to be meaningfully engaged in civic issues.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve additional support of \$3,500 to the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society to support the provision of free transportation services to cancer patients, and direct staff to include an On-going Grant to the Society, in the amount of \$5,000 in the 2018 Financial Plan, subject to the conditions identified in this report.

Suzanne Fillion, CPA, CGA
Acting General Manager,
Finance & Technology

Appendix "I" – Council Initiatives Fund



2017 FINANCIAL PLAN
COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	8,000		
2017 Adopted Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 258,000
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 5 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 3 of 3)		10,000	
C ₂ U Expo		20,000	
Indo-Canadian Dental Association Gala		2,500	
100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge Battle		2,000	
The Debaters		350	
Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society (Proposed)		3,500	
Allocations for 2017		<u>\$ 78,350</u>	<u>\$ 179,700</u>