



CITY OF VANCOUVER
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Judy Rogers, City Manager
Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2004

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Brent MacGregor

CC: Syd Baxter, City Clerk
Jamie Graham, Chief Constable
Dave Rudberg, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: **Celebration of Light**

This memo is further to the Celebration of Light funding report dated October 28, 2003, considered by Council on December 02, 2003. Council delayed a decision on the report until January 2004.

The purpose of this memo is to provide updated information to Council on the event, a recommendation on a specific funding request to make of the GVRD, and a revised cost estimate for Police service directly related to the event.

The Celebration of Light Society as event organizers must confirm the order for the fireworks by not later than February 11, 2004. The budget to hold this event, exclusive of any City cost, is approximately \$1,100,000. Committed revenues are currently short by approximately \$245,000, but the Celebration of Light Society is confident they can obtain the additional revenue through fundraising to cover this shortfall. Therefore, holding the event in 2004 is conditional on the City retaining the event as a Civic Event and covering all direct City costs.

City support is fundamental to being able to proceed with this "Free Family Fun" event, so a decision on City funding, is needed from Council on February 10, 2004.

The GVRD is being asked to provide \$100,000 in funding toward this event as approximately 42% of people attending are from GVRD municipalities other than Vancouver. If this funding is achieved, it would go to offset the City cost for this event.

In the report considered by Council December 02, 2003, the estimate for police services considered policing the entire downtown area, at event levels. There is no question that adequate policing is necessary and that decision is made by the Chief Constable. However, with a major civic celebration of this significance the question is whether to adjust expenditures internally to at least support portions of the event control within the normal police budget.

In discussions with the Chief Constable, it has been agreed to revise the cost for additional policing to \$350,000 from \$490,000. The cost to police adequately throughout the downtown will be done within the \$350,000 additional funding and the approved police budget. This would reduce the overall City budget from \$588,000 to \$448,000 for 2004.

The report considered on December 02, 2003 suggested also that a long term agreement be developed to provide more clarity around the holding of the event and enable organizations to achieve more confirmed sponsorship. To facilitate this, it is suggested that Council support this civic event with a 3 year license agreement. This agreement would be conditional on containing the City costs at \$448,000 plus inflation, and that the event operational control plan continues to be satisfactory.

Therefore Recommendation C is suggested.

Therefore the City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the following revised Recommendations:

- A. THAT Council approve the Celebration of Light as a civic event for 2004.
- B. THAT Council approve a budget of \$448,000 for all City Services, in advance of the 2004 Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve the Celebration of Light as a civic event for 2004 - 2006, and request the Director of Legal Services to modify the current agreement to develop a 3 year license agreement. This will be subject to the civic event annual budget approval of \$448,000 plus inflation, and a satisfactory operation control plan being in place.
- D. THAT Council request the GVRD to provide \$100,000 toward City funding of this event as it is an event of regional importance with approximately 42% of attendees from GVRD municipalities other than Vancouver.

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