



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 17, 2005  
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Meeting Date: November 1, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Mayor's Office

SUBJECT: General assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace

#### CONSIDERATION

- A. THAT Council approve initial funding of \$8,000 to the Mayor's office, to be funded from the 2005 Contingency Reserve, for the hosting of a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace in advance of the final Council approval that is to be provided as part of the 2006 budget process.
- B. THAT Council approve in principle the preliminary plans outlined in this report for the hosting of a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace and that remaining funding of \$42,000 be subject to the 2006 Budget Process.

#### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

City Manager submits this report for council's CONSIDERATION

## COUNCIL POLICY

On March 31, 2005, Council approved the Mayor's proposal to host a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace in conjunction with the World Urban Forum and World Peace Forum at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 subject to further Council approval as part of the 2006 budget considerations. The motion also approved a one-time grant of \$150,000 to the World Peace Forum to be released in phases subject to conditions and on the approval of Council.

## PURPOSE

The City has agreed to host a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace in conjunction with the World Urban Forum and World Peace Forum in June 2006. The cost is not to exceed \$50,000 and is subject to further Council approval as part of the 2006 budget considerations. Council instructed staff to work with the Mayor's office and report back on a comprehensive plan and budget considerations.

This report outlines preliminary plans for the general assembly and joint meetings, and requests an initial grant of \$8,000, as a deposit to hold the hotel rooms required for those attending the general assembly. Release of the remaining \$42,000 will be considered as part of the 2006 Budget process.

## BACKGROUND

On May 18, 2004, Council passed a resolution affirming the City of Vancouver as a City of Peace and confirming that it will continue to participate in the Mayors for Peace initiative and the United Nations Peace Messenger Cities initiative by endorsing in principle the holding of a World Peace Forum in June 2006 in conjunction with the World Urban Forum. The Peace Forum is being organized by the World Peace Forum Society and is taking place in Vancouver from June 23 - 28, 2006. The theme is "Cities and Communities: Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World".

On February 1, 2005, Council voted unanimously to join the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, a worldwide organization of cities focused on peace. The Association has approximately 98 member cities. Over 1000 mayors, including Vancouver's, are members of Mayors for Peace, and numerous other cities, including Vancouver, are members of Cities for Peace through their opposition to the war in Iraq.

On March 31, 2005 Council voted unanimously for the City of Vancouver to host a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace in conjunction with the World Urban Forum and World Peace Forum at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 subject to further Council approval as part of the 2006 budget considerations. The motion also approved a one-time grant of \$150,000 to the World Peace Forum Society for the World Peace Forum to be released in three phases subject to conditions and on the approval of Council. At present the first instalment of \$50,000 has been released to the World Peace Forum Society.

Council has also approved the City of Vancouver's involvement in the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF III) which is being hosted by the Government of Canada and is taking place from June 19 - 23, 2006 in Vancouver. The main theme for WUFIII is "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action".

The World Urban Forum is a biennial gathering that is attended by a wide range of partners, from non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities.

## DISCUSSION

The plans for the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace are still preliminary and will be reported out in more detail, together with a detailed budget, as part of the 2006 budget process.

To date the plans are as follows:

- Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> -- opening reception and dinner.
- Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> -- public forum planned and hosted by the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and the World Peace Forum at Plaza of Nations.
- Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> -- dialogue session between International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and the Mayors for Peace at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue.
- Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - International Association of Peace Messenger Cities General Assembly at a hotel conference centre or Vancouver Public Library.

An invitation has gone out to the members of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities asking that they confirm attendance by January 31, 2006. Invitations will go to the Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace this month, asking that they too confirm attendance by the end of January 2006.

Based on experience from previous general meetings and joint meetings, approximately 100 delegates can be expected from the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and another 100 - 150 from Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace. In hosting the general assembly, the City is responsible for covering the cost of accommodation for the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities delegates.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace is not to exceed \$50,000. Sponsorships for some of the events and meals will be secured as a way to keep the cost within the approved limit.

At this point, a total of \$8,000 is required as a deposit to secure the hotel rooms needed as part of the hosting of the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. Staff will report back on the balance of the \$42,000 as part of the 2006 budget process.

## CONCLUSION

Council has approved hosting a general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and joint meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace. This report outlines the preliminary plans for the general assembly and joint meeting, and asks for an initial funding of \$8,000 as a deposit to secure the hotel rooms needed for the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities delegates. A further report will be provided as part of the 2006 Budget process.

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