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CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 12, 2005
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Meeting Date: December 13, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Olympic Operations

SUBJECT: Approval for a Councillor to Travel and Attend the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give consideration to authorize a Councillor to attend the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy from approximately February 20th to 27th, 2006; funding to come from the 2005 Operating Budget, Olympic Operations.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits this report for Council's CONSIDERATION.

COUNCIL POLICY

The City's Travel Policy requires Council approval for Councillors travelling outside of British Columbia.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to give consideration for a Councillor to attend the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy from approximately February 20 to 27, 2006. This period includes the closing ceremonies on February 26, 2006.

BACKGROUND

In preparation for the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics Winter Games in Vancouver, the City will be sending a delegation to Torino, Italy. The delegation will participate in the knowledge transfer program organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Torino Organizing Committee (TOROC). All of the government partners will be participating in these programs.

It should be noted that the future host cities, Beijing (2008) and London (2012) will also be represented and will be participating in the Observer Program with Vancouver. As well, it is expected that the cities vying for the 2014 Winter Games will be in attendance. For Vancouver, this will be the last opportunity to learn from a Winter Games prior to our Games in 2010.

The City of Vancouver representatives in Torino consist of the following components:

- 10 City staff will participate in the formal observer program at the Olympic Games and 5 will attend the Paralympics. They will represent the various functional areas such as the Olympic Village Project Manager Cultural Services, Transportation Venue Operations, Public Works, Building Codes and Public Safety. Staff are being rotated in on 5-6 day slots to maximize use of the available accommodation.
- 1 City staff member is being seconded to work in the Olympic Village in Logistics Planning. The experience gained in this assignment will assist in the design and operation of our False Creek Athletes Village.
- The Mayor will attend and participate in the formal handover ceremony from Torino to Vancouver. He will be accompanied by his partner and Executive Assistant.

The staff delegation will be funded by the 2005 Operating Budget, Olympic Operations. The Mayor's delegation will be funded from the Mayor's Fund. The City Manager will also attend as a representative of the VANOC Board of Directors and her travel will be funded by VANOC.

The venue communities of Whistler and Richmond will also be represented in Torino at both the staff and Council level. While precise numbers of attendees are still being determined, it is expected that up to 3 Councillors from Whistler and Richmond will be part of their delegation to Torino.

DISCUSSION

Council may wish to consider sending an additional Council delegate to Torino. At this time, we are advised that an additional representative would not be able to obtain any special status or accreditation beyond preferred access to transportation services. While there is limited accreditation, there are some benefits in attendance as noted below:

- Observation on the impacts of the Olympics on the functioning of the City.
- Review of the services provided by the City to support the Games and to host visitors.
- Meeting with various officials from Torino, TOROC, IOC, etc. at several functions which will occur throughout the Games period.
- Attendance at various events if tickets are purchased by the attendee

The cost for attendance in Torino for a 6-7 day period is estimated at \$7,300. This does not include the purchase of event tickets and cost may vary based on the availability of accommodations. If approved, the costs would be funded from the Operating Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If approved, the estimated costs would be funded from the 2005 City Manager's Operating Budget, Olympic Operations.

CONCLUSION

Council may wish to consider additional participation in the Olympic Winter Games in Torino.

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