

Supports Item No. 9
CS&B Committee Agenda
March 23, 2006



CITY OF VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 7, 2006
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TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: Director of City Plans, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team

SUBJECT: World Urban Forum 2006 - Budget Request

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council receive this report and defer the following Recommendations to the 2006 Interim Operating Budget
- B. THAT Council authorize a one-time funding of \$330,000 to be added to the 2006 Operating Budget without offset for City contributions to the World Urban Forum (WUF), including \$70,000 for policing, subject to 2006 budget considerations.
- C. THAT the City Manager be authorized to transfer up to up to a maximum of \$250,000 from Contingency Reserve to police the WUF if significant unforeseen security issues arise.
- D. THAT staff report back with details on the City's budget for the WUF and City involvement in program events.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

- On June 11, 2002, Council supported the World Urban Forum (WUF) being held in Vancouver in 2006.
- On September 11, 2003, Council authorized City officials to engage with other governments and agencies in preparations for the 2006 WUF. Council also agreed that, given limitations on City grant programs, groups seeking funding for WUF-related activities should approach the National WUF Secretariat for support.

PURPOSE

This report recommends that \$330,000 in one-time funding for the United Nations World Urban Forum be added to the 2006 Operating Budget. This amount includes \$70,000 in policing costs for the Vancouver Police Department. In addition, it is recommended that \$250,000 be allocated in the 2006 Contingency Reserve Budget for potential additional security and policing costs.

BACKGROUND

In September 2002, the Prime Minister of Canada offered to host the 2006 World Urban Forum (WUF) in Vancouver. In May 2003, the United Nations (UN) formally confirmed Vancouver as the location. The World Urban Forum is scheduled for June 19-23, 2006, and will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. The main theme is "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action."

WUF will gather governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, urban professionals and academics to discuss and seek solutions to urban issues. While most costs will be covered by the United Nations, the Federal Government, and the RCMP, the City will bear some costs associated with hosting the event, including policing. Details on the City's WUF budget and involvement in the formal WUF program will be reported to Council in April.

During the past two years, national and local committees have refined themes and developed a budget for the Forum. On February 23, 2005, the Canadian government allocated \$15 million toward the WUF. This funding provides the basis for implementing WUF, with further funds and in-kind contributions bringing total funding to about \$30 million.

DISCUSSION

World Urban Forum attendees will include official delegates from the UN and participating countries, representatives from NGOs, academics, planners, and others with an interest in cities. Many delegates will be visiting the city for the first time and seeking information about Vancouver. The requested funding of \$260,000 will cover the following City activities:

- Reciprocal hosting opportunities
- Brochures and CDs

- City Tours
- Exhibition space
- Networking Sessions
- Improved Web Access

Funding of \$70,000 is also requested for the VPD to provide basic perimeter security around the World Urban Forum venue and to liaise with the RCMP. In the case of significant, unanticipated security issues requiring additional resources (e.g. large protest activity), policing costs could increase. Rather than requesting additional resources for these security issues, it is recommended Council provide authority to the City Manager to allocate up to \$250,000 from Contingency Reserve for additional policing costs for the World Urban Forum. These funds would be used only if required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost for the City's involvement in the World Urban Forum is estimated at \$330,000 including perimeter security. An allocation of \$250,000 from Contingency Reserve, to be accessed only if required, would be available to address any significant security issues. The approval and funding of this request is to be deferred to the 2006 Interim Budget.

CONCLUSION

The City of Vancouver is presented with a unique opportunity to showcase itself as a leader in urban livability and sustainability when the World Urban Forum arrives in June 2006. The objectives of WUF to engage cities, communities and neighbourhoods in making cities livable and countries sustainable through private and public cooperation are consistent with the City's policies and objectives. Staff will report back with details in April on the City's budget and involvement, and on the formal WUF program.

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