

Supports Item No. 2
CS&B Committee Agenda
July 13, 2006

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



Report Date: June 5, 2006
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RTS No.: 06026
VanRIMS No.: 01-5500-60
Meeting Date: July 13, 2006

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: General Manager of Parks & Recreation
Chief Constable
General Manager Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

SUBJECT: 2009 World Police and Fire Games

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council endorse the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games and encourage citizens to welcome and participate in the Games;
- B. THAT Council approve funding in the amount of \$300,000 over a three year period, \$100,000 in each of 2007, 2008 and 2009 to support the development of the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games to be held in Vancouver and throughout the Lower Mainland as part of the policy initiative on Sport Hosting, source of funds to be the Sport Hosting Grant Programme, if approved;
- C. THAT Council appoint a Vancouver citizen to serve on the Board of Directors of the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games to represent the civic interests of Vancouver residents and taxpayers.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Sport Hosting provides civic benefits associated with major sport events through economic, social and community development. If Council approves the new policy outlined in a separate staff report (RTS No. 05954), it is recommended that the World Police and Fire Games be the first major event to receive grant funding within the scope of the new policy. The City Manager recommends approval of Recommendation A thru C.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council is concurrently deliberating on the creation of a Sport Hosting Policy and Grant Programme. Existing policy includes the Parades and Special Events Policy which outlines civic support for "civic events", festivals and celebrations.

Council policy, approved in 1988, states that Councillors and civic staff should not represent the City on non-profit Boards.

Council policy requires that approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report seeks grant approval for the first major sport event to be considered under the proposed new Sport Hosting Policy and Grant Program for the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games ("the Games") in the amount of \$300,000.

BACKGROUND

The World Police and Fire Games is an international multi-sport event involving police officers, firefighters and customs and correction officers competing in over 65 athletic events. This event is one of the largest international sporting events after the summer Olympics. The history of the event dates back to 1967 and includes the successful games in Vancouver in 1989. The Games, scheduled for July 31 to August 9, 2009 will take place in venues in Vancouver and throughout the Lower Mainland, Whistler and Chilliwack. Plans are being finalized for the opening and closing ceremonies to be sited at BC Place with several events at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Anticipating 14,000 athletes from 70 countries, the Games will involve 25,000 coaches, officials and family members, utilizing 6000 local volunteers in the operations.

The Games are overseen by the World Police and Fire Games Federation, managed locally by a Board of Directors with funding to date from the City of Burnaby, the Province of British Columbia and Telus. Inspector Bob Stewart (Vancouver Police Department) and Jeff Clark (Burnaby Fire Department) are Co-Chairs of the Games. Susan Mundick, General Manager of the Park Board has been serving on the Board, working closely with the Vancouver Police and Fire Chiefs on the Games logistics. At this early planning stage, efforts are focused on planning activities including governance, sponsorship, marketing and involvements from all levels of government.

As a multi-sport event, special consideration by Federal and Provincial governments is required. The Games are not eligible for funding consideration under the HostingBC programme. With an operating budget of \$12 million and significant costs for civic services, the organizers have appeared before Council requesting financial support of \$1.5 million. Our Parades and Special Event policy framework currently does not provide for support for this type of major event.

The interdepartmental work related to a Sport Hosting Policy and Grant Programme provided an opportunity to test the recommended policy guidelines on an actual major event request. Using the policy outline, the Games were assessed to determine if it would be eligible for consideration of civic support under the recommended policy. The results determined that the Games would be eligible for consideration and that, should Council approve the Sport Hosting Policy and Grant Programme, staff recommends approval of a Major Sport Event Operating Grant of \$100,000 per year for three years. This is the maximum amount provided for in the recommended grant programme and, if approved, represent 50% of the entire grant programme for a three year period.

In addition to meeting the assessment criteria outlined in the Sport Hosting policy, several factors were influential in the staff deliberations leading to this recommendation:

- The event is one of the largest international sporting events after the summer Olympics, and is at a scale far exceeding other sport hosting opportunities on the horizon in the areas of budget, participants, volunteers and visitors;
- The public is invited to all open sporting and cultural events free of charge;
- Direct relationship to civic and Board priorities including
 - Community Relations with Emergency First Responders
 - Human Resource attraction and retention
 - Employee health and fitness
 - Active Communities
- Developed partnership with City of Burnaby, Province of BC and Telus
- Commitment of Vancouver Police and Fire and Rescue Services

These considerations, in addition to the results of the assessment of their \$1.5 million request based on the policy criteria, result in staffs' recommendation that the 2009 World Police and Fire Games be awarded a multi-year grant of \$300,000, \$100,000 for each of 2007, 2008 and 2009. As noted in the Sport Hosting Policy, multi-year approval will be based on a pro-rated formula over the term of the grant with the final allotment granted upon receipt and acceptance of final financial statements and payment of any city services.

In addition, in kind services will be considered by Police Board and Fire and Rescue Services. Park Board will provide in-kind support through access to city owned park facility space. It is anticipated that, as plans develop, consideration of further grant funding under the Festivals and Celebration Grants will be forthcoming to support the opening and closing ceremonies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that \$300,000 be approved over three years (\$100,000 in each of 2007, 2008 and 2009), to be awarded to the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games, as a grant from funds from the Sport Hosting Policy Grant Programme.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

In 2006, as the business and governance planning is completed, City staff will conclude their direct participation on the Board of Directors.

Existing staff in Engineering, Police, Community Services and Parks will continue in their roles to support and coordinate city services and apply approved policy as part of the staff FEST Committee and their Department/Board responsibilities.

CONCLUSION

The City of Vancouver is committed to enhancing its reputation as an international sport destination and to increase its share in the sport tourism industry. This report seeks approval to provide, as the first grant under the new Sport Hosting Policy and Grant Programme, if approved, a three year funding commitment to the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games.

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