



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 16, 2006  
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Meeting Date: December 12, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Director of Social Planning  
SUBJECT: 2006 Capital Grant - Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a Capital Grant of \$2,700 for the emergency repair of a retaining wall at the front of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland house, conditional on funding from other sources sufficient to complete this project; source of funds: unallocated 2006 Capital Grant Budget for non-City-owned Childcare, Social Services and Cultural Facilities.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

#### COUNCIL POLICY

In 1987, City Council adopted "Criteria and Guidelines for Capital Grants". Included in these, was the stipulation that the City Grant for a project is not to exceed one-third of the total project cost.

The 2006-2008 Capital Plan includes provision for a Capital Grant program for social service and cultural projects in facilities which are not owned by the City.

Approval of Grants requires eight affirmative votes.

## PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to allocate a Capital Grant of \$2,700 for the Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland to assist with the repair of the retaining wall at the front of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland house.

## BACKGROUND

Big Sisters is committed to enhancing the confidence, self-esteem and well-being of girls through supportive relationships with caring women. The agency supports Big and Little Sisters matches throughout the Lower Mainland. It serves a diverse group of girls, in terms of age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, family situations, abilities and issues. Big Sisters also has a very extensive and diverse volunteer network.

## DISCUSSION

The City provides support for cultural and social service facilities through mechanisms including the direct provision of facilities, Capital Budget allocations to organizations operating out of City-owned facilities and, since 1975, Capital Grants to organizations located in their own (or leased) premises.

Capital Grants to non-profit social service, childcare, and cultural organizations are for purchase, renovation and refurbishment of facilities not owned by the City. By policy, Capital Grants cannot exceed one-third of the total project cost - the balance of the funds must be secured by the non-profit organization through public and private sector fund-raising.

The purpose of this grant is to assist with the repair of the retaining wall at the front of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland house located at 34 East 12th Avenue. This is necessary house emergency repair work, to ensure the safety and integrity of the house, as well as the safety of individuals accessing the house via 12th Avenue. The need for this work had not been anticipated or budgeted for, but has become necessary due to a partial collapse of a retaining wall during a recent storm.

The scope of the repair work is to remove and reset stone along 12th Avenue, while maintaining stone adjacent to the stairs, remove part of the fill and replace with sand and gravel mix to back fill the wall, install a drain pipe and weep holes to the front of the wall for proper drainage and replant vegetation where required. BC One and the City of Vancouver will confirm the location of hydro, gas, sewage and water. Telus gives automatic clearance.

### Project Funding:

Total Project Cost	\$8,162
Funding Sources:	
Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland - Capital	\$5,462
Contingency Fund	
Capital Grant	<u>\$2,700</u>
T O T A L	\$8,162

All Capital Grants must meet the following general conditions:

- Confirmation of funding to be in place prior to release of 50% of City funding;
- Remaining 50% released on receipt of invoices and, where applicable, Occupancy Permits;
- Written approval of landlord, where applicable, to make renovations;
- All renovations to meet applicable City By-Laws, permit requirements and guidelines.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2006-2008 Capital Plan provided a total of \$500,000 for Capital Grants and \$150,000 was approved in the 2006 Capital Budget for Capital Grants Program. There is \$80,000 funding available in the capital budget to cover this grant amount.

## CONCLUSION

This report recommends the allocation of a \$2,700 grant for the emergency repair of the retaining wall at the front of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland house, on condition that funding from other sources sufficient to complete this project is secured. This repair will ensure the safety and integrity of the house and allow the agency to continue providing support to Big and Little Sisters matches.

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