

B.1

MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Multicultural Helping House Society (VanRIMS 11-2200-10)

MOVED by Councillor Lee

SECONDED by Councillor Ball

WHEREAS:

1. forty-nine percent of Vancouver's population are immigrants and Vancouver continues to attract significant number of newcomers to settle in the City;
2. assisting newcomers to achieve their full potential is important to the economic and social well-being of the City of Vancouver and its residents;
3. the Multicultural Helping House Society, established since 1996, aims to help newcomers integrate successfully into Canadian society by providing social, educational, cultural, and economic support services;
4. the City has a history of assisting non-profit organizations in facilities development;
5. the Multicultural Helping House Society has outgrown its current premises and they are no longer adequate to address the needs of the communities served; and
6. the City has received a request from Multicultural Helping House Society for City assistance in securing affordable premises in which to operate a Multicultural Helping Village for a variety of Vancouver's smaller ethnic communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Council endorse in principal the Multicultural Helping Village, and direct staff to work with Multicultural Helping House Society to explore the feasibility of creating an expanded facility which can serve a broader range of newcomers to the City.

* * * * *

Original

Multicultural Helping House Society

Website: www.helpinghouse.org

Vancouver Office:

4802 Fraser St., Vancouver, BC V5V 4H4

Phone: 604.879.3277 Fax: 604.879.3327

Email: info@helpinghouse.org

Charity Registration Number: 86527 4492 RR0001

Richmond Office:

#103, 6888 No. 3 Rd. Richmond, BC V6Y 2C4

Phone: 604.270.0160

Email: mhhsrichmond@helpinghouse.org

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Vice-President

Dulce Cuenca
Secretary

Beth Borromeo
Treasurer

Directors:

Winnonah Beyer

Fel Cariaso

Concepcion Colobong

Limbania Deza Lau

Leodegario Malong

Amado Mercado

Nilo Opina

Matthew Stevenson

Dexter Tarampi

Nellie Vandt

Major Funders

Service Canada

City of Vancouver

Province of BC - Ministry of
Community, Aboriginal and
Women's Services

Province of BC - Ministry of
Economic Development

Province of BC - Ministry of
Public Safety and Solicitor
General - Gaming

United Way

Canadian Heritage

City of Richmond

Executive Director

Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell

June 22, 2007

Cllr. BC Lee
City of Vancouver
Vancouver City Hall
City of Vancouver

Dear Cllr. BC Lee,

Subject: Multicultural Helping Village

Thank you very much for your support to Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) in our efforts to build a new facility to accommodate the growing needs of our Society and the communities we serve.

We are pleased to present a proposal to the City of Vancouver that will help accommodate the needs of immigrants and newcomers in a way that builds upon ethnic communities working with each other.

Attached is our letter to Vancouver City Council, proposing the Multicultural Helping Village, requesting support in the form of land, and authority to City staff to work with us in refining plans and identifying a suitable site.

We are pleased to provide endorsements by 15 organizations representing 8 ethnic communities.

Thank you for facilitating this request with the Vancouver City Council.

Please contact us for any questions or if you need additional information.

Yours Sincerely,


Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell
Executive Director


Tom Avendaño
President

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Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell

June 21, 2007

Mayor and Council of the City of Vancouver
Vancouver City Hall, City of Vancouver

Dear Mayor Sam Sullivan and City Councilors,

Subject: Requesting Endorsement for Land for Multicultural Helping Village

The Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS), with the support of the City of Vancouver, has had the privilege of serving the community's newcomers for over 6 years now, the last 4 in its own center called the Multicultural Helping House on Fraser Street and 32 Ave. Since it completed in May 2003, we have grown so fast in terms of services, programs, clients, staff and volunteers, that we have now run out of space. To accommodate its existing needs and future growth, MHHS is seeking to build a new and larger facility for the communities we serve.

We would like to request free or subsidized land from the City of Vancouver on which to build this facility.

Called the **Multicultural Helping Village**, the new facility will build upon the current services of MHHS in helping newcomers succeed in Canada. Such services include settlement and employment assistance to newcomers including the popular Bamboo Network, community development for ethnic seniors, youth, families and caregivers, capacity building and citizenship training for newcomers, building bridges among cultures through understanding of arts and culture of newcomers and of Canada. The focus will be the Filipino Canadian community, now the third largest ethnic community in BC, and ethnic communities that we work with that do not yet have a home and services of their own such as emerging minority communities of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Hispanic communities.

We envision that this project will be a partnership between Federal Government, Provincial Government, City of Vancouver, and Multicultural Helping House Society in consortium with community organizations.

We envision that the village will contain 4 types of uses:

- newcomer integration services including counseling offices, employment resource center, training center, program space for seniors, youth, and families;
- a multicultural center containing spaces for use by different ethnic and community organizations such as office, meeting, arts and culture, and classroom space, and
- temporary group housing for newly arrived newcomers, refugees, student housing and respite housing for live-in caregivers during their days off
- entrepreneurial uses to help sustain the project financially in the future like private office rental for establishments compatible with the multicultural village.

Preliminary scoping of requirements indicates that we will need for phase 1, approximately 36,000 sq ft, requiring approximately 12,000 sq ft of land.

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Helping newcomers succeed in Canada. When you light a path for others, you light your own as well

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Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell

We have started fundraising with the community for this project. We have begun conversations with potential partners among other ethnic communities, see list of endorsements below. We have begun facility programming with our users and stakeholders, to refine the uses, spaces and services. We have started to explore grant opportunities with the Federal Government and have positive indications of interest. We are also approaching the Provincial Government for the housing components of the project. We hope to have phase one built by 2010.

At this time, we would like to request that Council endorse in principle the Multicultural Helping Village, and authorize staff to work with MHHS and community organizations working with MHHS, in refining the plan and program, and finding a suitable site for the project. Please contact us at the numbers above for any questions on this request.

Yours Sincerely

Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell
Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell, MHHS Executive Director

Tom Avendaño
Tom Avendaño, MHHS President

We endorse the Multicultural Helping Village and plan to work with MHHS on achieving this project:

MIZANUF MAJUMDAR
President, Bangladeshi Engineers and Applied Scientists of BC

SADRUL HASAN HAMUN S.H. Mann
President/VP, Greater Vancouver Bangladeshi Cultural Association

AURORA BACH NAPOLUS
President, Latin American Community Council

ANA DAVID
President, Latinos in Action Society

CHRISTOPHER CHUNG
Vice-President, Singaporean/Malaysian/Brunei Cultural Organization

PATHMA RATAMAHENDRAN
President, Tamil Cultural Society

NIHAN BA HUTUH
President, Mekong Delta Fellowship Society in Greater Vancouver
(See attached - ARTHUR LE signature)
Producer, Vietnamese Oversea Television

AMADO N. MERCADO JR
President, Filipino Canadian Construction Society

EDGARDO S. LANTIN
Director of the Board on behalf of President, Dimaslang III International Artists

EDUARDO LIMANGAN
President, Filipino Seniors Club

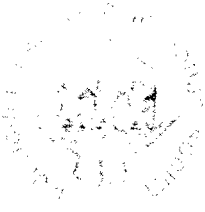
MARISSA B. VELARDE
President, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

LILIA S TIAMZON
Publisher/Editor, Philippine Journal

DANNY DE DIOS
Publisher/Editor, Philippine News Today

ROQUE PERALTA
Publisher/Editor, Philippine Asian Chronicle

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Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell, MHHS Executive Director Tom Avendano, MHHS President

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Publisher/Editor, Philippine Journal

Publisher/Editor, Philippine News Today

Publisher/Editor, Philippine Asian Chronicle

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ATTACHMENT: Signature of Producer,