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CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 4, 2008
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VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-20
Meeting Date: March 11, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: City Clerk

SUBJECT: Provincial Grant Funding for Vancouver Twinning Relationships

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia that will allow the City of Vancouver to receive a grant of \$25,000 for the purpose conducting a strategic review of the City's Sister City Program with particular emphasis on strengthening the City's twinning relationships with local governments in the Asia-Pacific countries.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the above recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY

The City of Vancouver has signed five formal Sister City 'twinning' agreements with the following cities:

- Odessa, Ukraine
- Yokohama, Japan
- Edinburgh, Scotland
- Guangzhou, China
- Los Angeles, USA

In 1986, City Council passed a resolution that no further Sister City Agreements be adopted in order to focus efforts on existing Sister Cities.

PURPOSE

To obtain authority for the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Province of British Columbia which will enable the City to receive \$25,000 in funding for the purpose of conducting a strategic review of the City's Sister City Program with particular emphasis on the City's twinning relationships with local governments in Asia-Pacific countries.

BACKGROUND

On March 3, 2008 the City received letter from the Province of British Columbia inviting the City to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for Local Government Twinning with the Province (see Appendix A). The MOA commits the Province to providing financial support (totalling \$25,000), information and technical assistance to the City of Vancouver for the purpose of strengthening the City's twinning relationships with local governments in Asia-Pacific countries. The deadline for signing the MOA is March 12, 2008.

Currently, the City of Vancouver has five formal Sister City agreements, two of which are with local governments in China and Japan. The relationships include:

- Yokohama, Japan - established in 1965
- Guangzhou, China - established in 1984
- Odessa, Ukraine - established in 1944
- Edinburgh, Scotland - established in 1978
- Los Angeles, USA - established in 1986

In 1986, City Council passed a resolution that no further Sister City Agreements be adopted in order to focus efforts on existing Sister Cities. During the late 1980's and 1990's, interest in the Sister Cities program waned due to a lack of program direction and financial support. The program lay dormant during this period.

DISCUSSION

Oversight of the City's Sister City program is now the responsibility of the External Relations and Protocol area. Although a review of the policy framework, future development and resourcing for the Sister City program was planned for the future, the offer from the Province to provide a \$25,000 grant to the City to strengthen the City's twinning relationships would enable the City to conduct the review sooner than planned.

The grant offer is timely as over recent years, the City of Vancouver has experienced an increased interest on the part of our sister cities in China and Japan, as well as a number of other local governments in the Asia-Pacific area. The City has received many requests to conduct knowledge exchanges in such areas as local governance, sustainability, liveability, as well as establishing twinning relationships.

The following are a few examples of the knowledge exchanges that the City is involved in:

- Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the City of Vancouver participated in a three-year municipal exchange with Bangkok that focused on social development and the treatment of drug addiction.
- As the host city of 2010 Winter Games, the City of Vancouver together with the Four Host First Nations have proposed a tripartite hosting agreement with City of Guangzhou, host of the 2010 Asian Games, to collaborate on a knowledge exchange in culture and sports, sustainability and liveability as well as to enhance the economic development of the three parties to the agreement.
- Other examples of knowledge exchange relationships include the City's submission to participate at the Urban Best Practices area at 2010 Shanghai World Expo and a similar participation in the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics. The Shanghai World Expo will offer an international stage for Vancouver to showcase the City's experience of liveability through sustainable development using the Southeast False Creek as an example.

The assistance offered by the Province would enable the City to review the policy framework of the City's Sister City program and exchange relationships undertaken by the City for the purpose of defining the program purpose, direction, future development, and resourcing needs, particularly as it relates to the increasing number of relationships that the City is establishing with local governments in the Asia-Pacific area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Province of British Columbia is inviting the City to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for Local Government Twinning with the Province. The MOA commits the Province to providing financial support (totalling \$25,000), information and technical assistance to the City of Vancouver for the purpose of strengthening the City's twinning relationships with local governments in China and Japan. The deadline for signing the MOA is March 12, 2008.

Staff are asking that Council authorize the City Manager to sign the MOA with the Province of British Columbia which will enable the City to receive \$25,000 in funding for the purpose of conducting a strategic review of the City's Sister City Program with particular emphasis on the City's twinning relationships with local governments in Asia-Pacific countries.

* * * *

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

On

Local Government Twinning Relationships



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

BETWEEN

THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA represented by the Minister of Community Services
and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues (the "Province")

AND

The City of Vancouver (the "Municipality")

WHEREAS:

- A. The Province is committed to the objectives of the Asia Pacific Initiative (API), and establishing British Columbia as the internationally recognized North America's capital for Asia Pacific commerce and culture.
- B. Friendly relationships between local government twins have the potential to "open doors" to successful and long lasting business relationships between companies in local government jurisdictions, which in turn can provide mutual benefits to the local governments and the province as a whole.
- C. The Province and Local Governments recognize that all parties must work collaboratively over the longer term to realize benefits from establishing economically robust relationships with Asian local governments.
- D. In light of the API priorities, one time funding has been made available on a pilot project basis to selected municipalities in support of their local twinning initiative(s) with Asia city counterparts.
- E. The City of Vancouver has been selected as one of the municipalities eligible for receiving one time funding for their local twinning initiative.
- F. The City of Vancouver Council has passed a resolution to sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Local Government Twinning Relationships and committed to meeting the Agreement deliverables.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree to the following:

1. The Province shall:
 - Provide information resources through the BC Asia Twinning Tool Kit and through the www.bcasiatwinnings.gov.bc.ca website.
 - Provide support including: research on target countries and cities, guidance on establishing economically robust twinings, statistics, education and training, senior government liaison support, city specific expressions of interest, contact with consular offices, embassies and trade and investment offices.
 - Subject to being authorized under the Local Government Act to distribute conditional grants to local governments in support of provincial priorities, provide the local government with a grant for \$ 25,000.
2. The City of Vancouver shall:
 - Use the grant funding to accomplish deliverables that lead towards establishing economically-robust twinning relationships with an Asia Pacific local government, which will result in one or more of the following by March 31, 2009:
 - ✓ Initiation or further enhancement of an economically-robust twinning relationship with a local government in an Asia-Pacific country (China, India, Japan or Korea).

- ✓ Conducting a mission to designated twin city (or developing a plan for achieving this).
- ✓ Hosting return delegation from designated twin city (or developing a plan to achieve this).
- Use the grant to support the results through funding twinning related planning, research, education, promotional materials, human resources or travel activities as specified in Schedule "A."
- Use the grant funding to supplement and complement existing efforts and not to replace existing initiatives.
- Achieve the expected results (or develop a plan to achieve the results) and report on them by March 31, 2009.

3. Term, Commencement and Extensions:

- Notwithstanding the actual date of execution of this Agreement, the term of this Agreement will commence on March 12, 2008 and will end on March 31, 2009.
- If a local government is unable to spend the funds to achieve the expected results or develop a plan by March 31, 2009, an extension can be considered if requested.

4. Amendments to this Agreement

- This Agreement may be amended from time to time by written agreement of the Parties.

5. Communications

- The municipality will provide monthly updates to the Province on the status of its twinning related activities.
- The Province will provide the municipality with any information it has that may assist the municipality in its twinning related activities.
- The Parties agree to follow the terms of the Communications Protocol set out in Schedule "B" of this Agreement.

6. Notice and transmission

- Any notice required to be given under this Agreement must be made in writing to the Province at:

Ministry of Community Services
 Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
 PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria, BC V8W 9T1
 Fax: (250) 387-7972
 Attention: Executive Director – Special Projects

and if to the Municipality:

City of Vancouver
 453 West 12th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
Attention: Chief Administrative Officer

SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF each of the parties has executed this Agreement as of

SIGNED on behalf of Her Majesty)
The Queen in Right of the Province)
of British Columbia by a duly authorized)
representative of the Minister of)
Community Services and Minister) _____
Responsible for Seniors' and Womens') Authorized Signatory for the Minister of
Issues.) Community Services and Minister
) Responsible for Seniors' and Womens'
) Issues

SIGNED by the Mayor of the)
City of Vancouver ...)
or his or her duly authorized)
Officer established by bylaw.) _____
) Mayor or authorized signatory

SCHEDULE A – Activities

The following activities are permissible subject to the overall achievement of the primary result intended, which is to establish or enhance economically robust twinning relationships/alliances with an Asia counterpart.

Eligible Grant Activities	
Planning	Establishing vision, goals, objectives and activities of the local twinning program; identifying potential collaborative partners, community surveys, evaluation of existing twinning program.
Research	Researching which Asian countries and cities of interest and complementarities are potential options for twinning to achieve mutual economic benefits.
Development of communication materials	Design and printing materials and websites to assist with twinning related local economic development, translating material into appropriate language
Training and Education	Cultural awareness training for staff and council members involved with the local government twinning initiative. General awareness seminars and other communications for the public of the emerging importance and interest in Asia.
Human resources	Support contractor costs or staff resources dedicated to supporting economically robust twinning initiatives including interpreters.
Travel	Support twinning related travel of senior municipal officials

SCHEDULE B – Communications Protocol

This communications protocol establishes the principles and practices that will guide all announcements and events related to this Agreement. Communications activities may include major public events or announcements, communication products such as speeches, press releases, websites, advertising or promotional material.

The Parties agree that in addition to joint communications activities, the Parties may include messaging in their own communications products and activities with respect to their commitment to the Agreement. All communications by the Municipality referring to twinning activities will clearly recognize the co-operation of the Province.

The Parties agree that they may, jointly or individually, make periodic announcements, through public events, press releases and/or other mechanisms of the following:

1. the signing of this Agreement;
2. twinning activities, including missions;
3. outcomes/results attributable to the activities undertaken to advance twinning and,
4. others as may be agreed to from time to time.

The timing of public events shall be sufficient to allow for the Parties to plan their involvement.