



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

IN CAMERA

Report Date: May 21, 2008
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Meeting Date: June 10, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Olympic and Paralympic Operations
SUBJECT: 'Welcome to Vancouver' Sign - Indemnification Agreement

IN CAMERA RATIONALE

This report is recommended for consideration by Council in the In Camera agenda as it relates to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*: (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council approve the installation of a 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign on BC Housing Management Commission's (BC Housing) property at 2203 Skeena Street.
- B. That Council authorize the General Manager of Olympic and Paralympic Operations to enter into an indemnification agreement that indemnifies BC Housing for any liability or claims that arise as a result of the installation of the sign on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Olympic and Paralympic Operations and Director of Legal Services.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends the approval of recommendations A and B.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approval is required for the City to agree to grant an indemnity and enter into any indemnification agreements.

SUMMARY

The City of Vancouver's Office of Olympic and Paralympic Operations is seeking approval to enter into an agreement with BC Housing to erect a 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign on its property located at 2203 Skeena Street, and enter into an agreement that indemnifies BC Housing for any claims or liability suffered by BC Housing that arises from the installation of the sign.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to authorize the General Manager, Olympic and Paralympic Operations to enter into an agreement with BC Housing to install a 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign on its property, and to indemnify BC Housing for any claims or liability suffered by BC Housing that arises from the installation of the sign.

BACKGROUND

Eight 'Welcome to Vancouver' signs are installed at major entry points to the City with funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Tourism Program. The signs are located at the following locations:

- Granville Street - just off the Arthur Laing Bridge
- Oak Street - just off the Oak Street Bridge
- Knight Street - just off the Knight Street Bridge
- 1st Avenue between Rupert and Boundary Road
- Grandview Highway between Skeena Street and Boundary Road
- Marine Way and Marine Drive
- West Georgia Street and Chilco Street
- Commissioner Street and McGill Street

Feedback on the new signs has been positive and it was determined that more 'Welcome to Vancouver' signs would be installed in the future. On November 13, 2007, Council authorized staff to apply to UBCM for funding to install two additional signs (RTS# 06963). In January 2008, UBCM approved the application for \$40,000.

DISCUSSION

City staff investigated suitable sites for the additional signs and identified two potential locations.

The first location is on the corner of Skeena Street and Broadway Street, which is property owned by BC Housing. This intersection is just west of the Burnaby-Vancouver border along Lougheed Highway. BC Housing has agreed to allow a 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign to be erected on its property at no cost, but has requested a letter of agreement stating that the City indemnifies them for any liability that may arise as a result of the installation of the sign. City staff support this request and recommend that Council authorize the General Manager, Olympic and Paralympic Operations to enter into such an agreement.

City staff recommends that the money for the second sign be used for an official 'Host City' sign at City Hall campus on the corner of 12th Avenue and Yukon Street. The 'Host City' sign would strengthen the City's brand as host of the 2010 Winter Games. The design of the sign would also incorporate elements of the new look of the Games being developed by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff do not anticipate that the cost to install the two signs will exceed the \$40,000 received by UBCM.

CONCLUSION

A sign located at the corner of Skeena Street and Broadway would welcome thousands of vehicle drivers and transit users each day traveling from Burnaby to Vancouver along Lougheed Highway. BC Housing supports the installation of a sign on its property with a letter of agreement that indemnifies them for any future liability associated with the sign. City staff recommend that Council authorize the General Manager, Olympic and Paralympic Operations to enter into such an indemnification agreement on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Olympic and Paralympic Operations and Director of Legal Services.

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