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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 23, 2009
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RTS No.: 08162
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 21, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager, Olympic and Paralympic Operations Office
SUBJECT: 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council approve a funding allocation of \$280,000 for activities related to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay. Source of funding to be from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund approved by Council on December 11, 2007.

COUNCIL POLICY

On December 11, 2007, City Council approved the creation of the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20 million (RTS# 7077), with instructions to report back on funding for specific initiatives.

Expenditures from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund require Council authorization.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council for the use of \$280,000 from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund for activities related to the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays.

BACKGROUND

On July 22, 2008, Council approved \$280,000 from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund for the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay activities (RTS# 7533) with staff to report back on specific program details and cost estimates.

On September 23, 2008 the City of Vancouver signed the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Agreement with VANOC to confirm its commitment in hosting the Olympic Torch Relay and

Community Celebration. A Community Planning Guide is accompanied with the Agreement, which contains important information that the City should observe while hosting the Olympic Torch Relay.

Early this month, Mayor Robertson received a letter from the BC Civil Liberties Association expressing concern that the VANOC guidelines for municipal management of the Olympic Torch Relay outlined in the Community Planning Guide may affect the public's right to freedom of expression.

The City of Vancouver has a long history of respect for peaceful political expression, which will continue to be the case during the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay and Winter Olympic Games. Under the Multi-Party Agreement, the City's only obligation is to provide normal levels of by-law enforcement. The City is currently negotiating with VANOC to enhance by-law enforcement during the 2010 Winter Games; however the proposed enhancement does not include freedom of expression.

For the City of Vancouver, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay celebrates the coming of the 2010 Winter Games. The first step in opening the 2010 Winter Games is taken with the lighting of the ceremonial flame in ancient Olympia. From that point on, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will be the focus of national and international press for 100 days, with 12,000 torch bearers carrying the flame to Vancouver.

Everywhere the Olympic Flame travels it creates unique opportunities to engage the local community. The City of Vancouver will encourage residents and visitors to line the route as the torch passes through various neighbourhoods. In addition, local, national and international media will cover the Olympic Torch Relay as it passes through Vancouver's neighbourhoods along the route.

DISCUSSION

The Olympic flame is scheduled to arrive in Vancouver on February 11, 2010. The relay will occur on the 11th and 12th, with an evening Torch Relay Celebration on February 11, 2010. The flame will visit many areas of Vancouver and the detailed route will be announced just prior to the flame's arrival in Vancouver. Although the detailed route is confidential, the City has been working with VANOC to ensure the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route will pass through a wide range of communities and historic sites across Vancouver.

The Paralympic flame will also visit Vancouver, but a detailed route for the Paralympic Torch Relay has not yet been set. The relay will commence after the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games on February 28, 2010 and conclude at the March 12 Opening Ceremony of the Paralympic Games. The overall scope and requirements for the City will be less than for the Olympic torch relay.

The City's involvement in the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays is multi-faceted. These key areas are outlined below:

Operations and Public Safety

The City is responsible for traffic control and general public safety as the flame moves through Vancouver. Flame and torchbearer security is the responsibility of a team of police that accompany the torch across the country. City of Vancouver's Special Events Office and the Vancouver Police Department will be included in planning to ensure public safety along the route.

Local Neighbourhood Celebrations

The City is interested in creating opportunities for local neighbourhood celebrations along the torch route in Vancouver. To assist in planning, the City will convene a Local Neighbourhood Celebration Task Force to provide advice and develop strategies to maximize community involvement in the celebrations along the route at a local level. This Task Force will include representatives from both internal City departments and external community organizations, such as 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Sponsors, Community Centre Associations, Business Improvements Associations and the Vancouver School Board.

Torch Relay Celebration

The City is responsible for organizing the Torch Relay Celebration on the evening of February 11th, 2010 which will be the final community celebration of the Olympic Torch Relay. The celebration will be located at David Lam Park, one of the LiveCity sites. The site has a capacity of approximately 10,000 people and is fully accessible. Live performances at the celebration will highlight performers that reflect Vancouver's creative excellence and cultural diversity.

The Torch Relay Celebration will be incorporated into the existing LiveCity project scope and deliverables. A Community Celebration Task Force, comprised of representatives from VANOC, the LiveCity Team and Olympic and Paralympic Operations will monitor the logistics and programming elements of the Torch Relay Celebration.

Torchbearers

As a celebration community, the City has the opportunity to recommend (to VANOC) the person who will be the final torchbearer and who will light the temporary cauldron at the Torch Relay Celebration. This torchbearer cannot be selected through a public nomination or selection process. Mayor and Council will select the torchbearer and two alternates to recommend to VANOC.

In addition to the one Community Celebration torchbearer spot, VANOC has given the City of Vancouver 10 torchbearer spots for City staff. The municipalities of Whistler, Richmond, Surrey and West Vancouver have also been given spots.

The Torch Relay Challenge Program, through which 10 staff members have been selected as torchbearers to represent the City, was created as a component of the City's larger Staff Engagement Plan. In a series of try-out sessions held in May and June throughout the City, staff members had one minute on videocamera to state why they should be chosen as a torchbearer. A committee led by internal City departments reviewed the entries and short-listed 10 staff who are representative of the City's diverse workforce. The Torch Relay Challenge has generated broad interest from staff for the opportunity of participating in the Torch Relay.

To build a sense of anticipation and surprise, the names of all torchbearer nominees will be announced in late 2009. The City of Vancouver and VANOC will work jointly on the announcement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On December 11, 2007, Council approved \$20 million for the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund, with funding approvals for specific projects to be reported to Council.

Based on the proposed program described in this report, the overall financial implications of the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay are shown as follows:

Activity	Estimated Costs
Operations and Public Safety	\$ 80,000
Local Neighbourhood Celebrations	\$ 75,000
Torch Relay Celebration (LiveCity Yaletown)	\$ 125,000
Total	\$ 280,000

In 2009, the Federal and Provincial Governments created grant funding programs to support Olympic Torch Relay community celebration events and activities. The City will submit applications to these funding programs and report results back to Council.

The following table provides an update on the status of funding allocations from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund.

Programs Approved to Date	\$ 18,786,000
Contingency	\$ 934,000
Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay	\$ 280,000
Total Olympic Legacy Reserve Funds	\$ 20,000,000

CONCLUSION

The proposed Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay Program will assist the City in engaging local neighbourhoods and staff to meaningfully contribute to the Games. Over the past several months, the City has solidified key components of this important project by selecting a site for the Torch Relay Celebration and nominating both the Torch Relay Celebration and Staff torchbearers. The City will continue to work closely with staff, 2010 partners and local community organizations to develop a vision for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays that reflects the city's rich diversity and culture.

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