



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 17, 2009
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Meeting Date: December 17, 2009

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
FROM: General Manager, Olympic and Paralympic Operations Office, in
consultation with the General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2010 Olympic Refundable Beverage Container Recycling Initiative

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$50,000 to United We Can for the 2010 Olympic Refundable Beverage Container Recycling Initiative. Source of funds to be from two of the approved Olympic Legacy Reverse Fund Projects:

- I. \$40,000 from the Look of the City - Gateway project approved by Council on October 28, 2008; and
- II. \$10,000 from the Social Sustainability Initiative approved by Council on October 14, 2008.

COUNCIL POLICY

On December 11, 2007, 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.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the use of \$50,000 from the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund for an on street recycling initiative during the 2010 Olympics, which will result in social and environmental benefits.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, United We Can (UWC) initiated and supported the development of the Urban Binning Unit (UBU) Cart Program. UWC is an organization located in the Downtown Eastside and endeavours to create self-sustaining enterprises that demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship, while generating jobs for people whom often have multiple barriers to re-entering the workforce.

The UBU Cart Program operates out of UWC and involves purpose-built recycling carts for use by the Binning community (individuals primarily involved in the scavenging of refundable beverage containers for the purpose of redeeming their deposit value). The program involves collecting and recycling bottles and cans from local businesses, apartment buildings and special events in Vancouver. Containers are returned for deposit refunds to the UWC bottle depot on East Hastings Street, which supports jobs at that facility.

In 2008, the City successfully partnered with UWC for UBU recycling collection projects at the Celebration of Lights and Chinatown Festival. A total of about 6,000 beverage containers were collected from those events using UBUs. Bidders removed bottles and cans from recycling racks on public litter containers and temporary recycling receptacles installed by the City for the events. Bidders were easily identified by wearing a UWC logo t-shirt which allowed the UBUs to also act as mobile recycling receptacles for the public. Bidders were paid an hourly wage by UWC with funding from the City's Great Beginning's initiative, and kept the deposit refunds from their collected containers.

UWC's participation resulted in valuable experience and increased profile, and helped position the organization and the inner city community closer to their goal of being included in and making a valuable contribution to 2010 Games. It was concluded that the UBU Cart Program provides an opportunity to increase the public's recognition of socially inclusive public recycling activities, benefits individuals of the inner city with barriers to traditional employment and diverts material through recycling.

In anticipation of opportunities for additional work during the Games, in 2009 UWC increased its recruitment of street cleaning staff with the intention of having sufficient spare labour to offer additional services if called upon in 2010. UWC offers frequent opportunities for employment during the year through regular postings in the community. Interested candidates are interviewed and attend an orientation prior to being scheduled for work. No candidate is excluded from applying, but consideration for employment is based on physical ability to complete the work and basic performance requirements.

DISCUSSION

The 2010 Olympic Refundable Beverage Container Recycling Initiative builds on our previous partnerships with UWC's UBU Cart Program. A grant of \$50,000 for a UBU recycling collection project will provide:

- 12 hours of coverage per day throughout the downtown core over the 17 days of the Olympic Games (three, four hour shifts per day);
- 22 UBUs and operators employed per shift, along with two supervisors per day, resulting in the employment of an estimated 68 individuals each day.

Collections work under this project would be similar to past special events involving Bidders with UBUs. Refundable beverage containers will be retrieved from recycling racks on existing City litter containers and approximately 250 temporary recycling receptacles installed by the

City in the urban domain for the Games. UBUs will also serve as mobile recycling receptacles for the public. Collected containers will be transferred to UWC's Bottle Depot and exchanged for refund. City staff will assist UWC with monitoring and coordinating the project to ensure the UBU crews are targeting areas with greatest demand. UWC will be responsible for managing their Binning staff and will provide project participants with raingear and safety vests. A portion of the grant funding will provide an allowance for the purchase of toques and gloves for each participant.

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.

The financial implications of the 2010 Olympic Refundable Beverage Container Recycling Initiative recommended by this report are as follows:

Item	Estimated Cost
Bidders (22 bidders x 4 hr/shift x 3shifts/day x \$10/hr)	\$44,880
Supervisors (1 supervisor x 6hr/shift x 2 shifts/day x \$15/hr)	\$3,060
Supplies - toques & gloves (68 units each @\$10 each)	\$1,360
Incidentals (e.g. repair of UBU's)	\$700
Total Estimated Cost	\$50,000

Source of funding would be from two of the approved Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Reserve Fund Projects: \$40k from the Look of the City-Gateway Program (RTS# 07689) and \$10k remaining from the Social Sustainability Initiative (RTS# 07555).

Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund	Budget	Spent &/or Committed to Nov 30, 2009	Remaining
Look of the City-Gateway Program	\$110,000	\$55,087	\$54,913
Social Sustainability Initiative	\$1,000,000	\$990,000	\$10,000

No new funds are requested from the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund.

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

Programs Approved to Date	\$19,066,000
Contingency	\$934,000
Total Olympic Legacy Reserve Funds	\$20,000,000

CONCLUSION

Funding of \$50,000 towards a 2010 Olympic Refundable Beverage Container Recycling Initiative provides an opportunity to engage local residents with barriers to participate in Games related activities. Fulfilling work duties over the course of the 17 day event results in a sense of pride and self-esteem which helps individuals to become more self reliant. Citizens and visitors benefit from increased awareness and enhanced aesthetics and liveability which is brought about by cleaner streets, and the environment benefits from increased waste diversion.

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