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For P&E Committee - June 24, 2010

Supports Item No. 4
P&E Committee Agenda
June 24, 2010



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 18, 2010
Contact: Muriel Honey
Contact No.: 604.257.8848
RTS No.: 08756
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 24, 2010

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: General Manager, Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Canada Day Fireworks

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$10,000 to the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society to help offset the costs of purchasing and presenting a Canada Day fireworks show in Burrard inlet off Canada Place; source of funds to be 2010 Contingency Reserve.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager notes that Canada Day Celebrations in Vancouver are particularly important this year, given the great success and the patriotism evident during the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. Further, the City's contribution to the event will complement the support of neighbouring north shore municipalities, and also complement the federal government's support of Canada Day Festivities at the new Convention Centre.

POLICY

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.
Council must approve expenditures involving draws from contingency reserve.
Special Event organizers are responsible for all City costs associated with their events.

PURPOSE

This report presents information about the costs of participating in a Canada Day fireworks show, presented by the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society, on July 1st. The report will provide background into previous events, and information about the Society's request for the City's on-going endorsement and financial support for the event.

BACKGROUND And DISCUSSION

The Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society has been presenting Canada Day Fireworks at Canada Place since 2007. The City of Vancouver, along with the three north shore municipalities and Canada Place Corporation, share in the cost of presenting the show, and each of the municipalities provides City services required for clean up and public safety in their city. The placement of two barges in Burrard inlet allows for viewing from a number of locations on both sides of the harbour, and eliminates the need for people to come into Vancouver to view them. In the four years of the fireworks there have been no concerns raised about crowds or crowd control, and the partnership between the four municipalities has reduced the cost of individual shows in each of them.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Canada Day celebration, parade and fireworks are all supported by the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, and the City supports the parade with a FEST offset. Since 2007 Council has supported a \$10,000 grant to the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society to help with the production of the fireworks show from the Contingency Reserve. Funding support for this event in future years will be included as part of the annual budget process.

CONCLUSION

A fireworks display on the evening of Canada Day is a tradition in many Canadian cities. Council has supported the Burrard Inlet Fireworks Society for the past three years, as have North Vancouver City and District and West Vancouver. Given the intent of the Society to continue with the fireworks in future years, an on-going budget for the costs of City services should be established.

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