



A5

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 19, 2010
Contact: Mario Lee
Contact No.: 604.871.6034
RTS No.: 8918
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 2, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Acting Managing Director of Social Development
SUBJECT: 2010 Rent Subsidies to Social Organizations

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve 4 Rent Subsidy Grants totalling \$95,575, as listed in APPENDIX A. Source of funding is \$63,500 from the 2010 Rent Subsidy Grants budget and \$32,075 from the 2010 Contingency Reserve;
- B. THAT Council approve the addition of \$32,075 to the 2011 Rent Subsidy Grants budget and beyond without offset; and
- C. THAT Council approve a rent subsidy grant estimated at \$4,552 per month, commencing October 1, 2010, up to a total of \$68,280 to Pacific Community Resources Society. The source of funding to be the 2010 Contingency Reserve.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

On June 8, 1993, City Council decided that rent subsidies to social service or cultural organizations, occupying City-owned property held in the Property Endowment Fund, will be funded from the Community Services or Cultural Grants budget, and that these budgets will be adjusted to accommodate any new or renewed subsidies approved by Council.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report recommends the allocation of \$95,575 in Rent Subsidy Grants to four organizations. In addition, this report recommends a rent subsidy of \$4,552 per month, starting October 1, 2010, to the Pacific Community Resources Society for up to 15 months.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Council has a policy of considering rent subsidy grants to groups which qualify for a Community Services Grant and rent City-owned property held in the Property Endowment Fund. The City charges market rental for these properties and groups may request a subsidy to offset this market rent. Social Policy's recommendation for or against such a grant will be based on the grant criteria and priorities used to assess Community Services grant allocations. Rent subsidy grants can be applied for at any time during the year.

Staff usually bring forward recommendations dealing with rent subsidies at the same time as recommendations for Community Services Grants allocations. This year, however, the recommendations for rent subsidies were delayed in order to integrate their assessment into the larger review of the Social Policy Grants Program, which is currently ongoing. Staff are planning to report back to Council with the results of a comprehensive grants program review early in 2011, and this will include an assessment of the future of the rent subsidies component of the grants program. In the meantime staff recommend allocating the rent subsidies for 2010.

Four organizations are being recommended for rent subsidy grants, as listed in Appendix A. The recommendations are for the same amount that they received in 2009. There is a special situation, however, with the Pacific Community Resources (PCR) - Broadway Youth Resource Centre.

Council has approved rent subsidies to the PCR-Broadway Youth Centre on two occasions:

- 1) The first one, in September 2008 (RTS 7596), as stated in the following recommendation:

"THAT Council approve a rent subsidy grant estimated at \$4,552 per month up to a total of \$109,250 to Pacific Community Resources Society to cover the rent incurred for use of the City-owned property at 685 East Broadway on a month-to-month basis for 24 months or until the premises are redeveloped, whichever shall first occur. The source of funding to be the 2008 Contingency Reserve."

- 2) The second rent subsidy approval occurred in April 2009 (RTS 7757) as part of the 2009 Community Services and Rent Subsidy Allocations. Council approved an additional subsidy of \$21,075 due to the fact that the City increased the rent starting May 1, 2009.

As the redevelopment of the City-owned property at 685 East Broadway will not take place in the near future, and as the subsidy approved in September 2008 ended in September 2010, staff recommend an additional subsidy of \$4,552 per month, up to a total of \$68,280 to Pacific Community Resources Society. This subsidy will cover the rent incurred for the use of the City-owned property at 685 East Broadway on a month-to-month basis for up to 15

months, commencing October 1, 2010, or until the premises are redeveloped, whichever shall first occur. This is one of the 12 City-owned sites to be developed as social and supportive housing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report requests that \$95,575 be approved for 2010 rent subsidy grants. It will be paid from the 2010 Rent Subsidy Grants Budget of \$63,500 and from \$32,075 from the 2010 Contingency Reserve.

For 2011 and beyond, Council is requested to approve the addition of \$32,075 to the Rent Subsidy Grant Budget without offset, increasing the total budget to \$95,575.

There is an additional rent subsidy grant to Pacific Community Resources Society of \$4,552 per month up to a total of \$68,280, commencing October 1, 2010 for up to 15 months or until the premises are redeveloped, whichever shall first occur, in order to cover the rent expenses for use of the City-owned premises at 685 East Broadway. This one-time subsidy grant will be funded from the 2010 Contingency Reserve.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The rent subsidies provides financial support to non-profit organizations that work with each other, various levels of government and residents to address social problems and bring about positive social change. The rent subsidy grants have been an important resource for community groups allowing them to provide needed services in Vancouver, and contribute to the building of strong communities and the delivery of quality services to Vancouver residents.

The additional rent subsidy grant to the Broadway Youth Resource Centre would allow them to continue occupying the City owned premises at 685 East Broadway and provide the Centre with the space needed to administer its youth housing program until the site is redeveloped. Youth experience a number of unique barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing, which adult-oriented housing services do not address. The approach taken by the Broadway Youth Resource Centre is demonstrating some promising outcomes in housing vulnerable youth and preventing long term homelessness.

CONCLUSION

The Acting Managing Director of Social Development recommends that Council approve the recommended rent subsidy grants.

* * * * *

APPENDIX A

Rent Subsidy Grants Recommended (Recommendation A)

AGENCY	RECOMMEND 2010	2010 REQUEST	2009 GRANT
Family Services - Street Youth - Rent	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$15,500
Pacific Comm. Res Society - Broadway Youth Res. Ctre - Rent	\$21,075	\$21,075	\$21,075
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities - Rent	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Dugout Drop-in Centre Society - Rent	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
TOTAL = 4	\$95,575	\$95,575	\$95,575