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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 27, 2012
Contact: Jim De Hoop
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Meeting Date: May 1, 2012

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Managing Director of Social Development

SUBJECT: Authorization to Receive Operating and Staffing Funds from BC Housing for the Evelyne Saller Centre and Gathering Place

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the continued receipt of annual ongoing funding from BC Housing to provide services operated at the Evelyne Saller Centre and the Gathering Place.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the General Manager of Community Services be authorized to finalize and execute operating agreements with BC Housing, effective immediately, for a period of three years with an option to mutually agree to extend for two further twelve (12) month periods. Such agreements customarily include an indemnification by the City in favour of BC Housing.

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Council acceptance of annual funding from the Province of BC (BC Housing), and authorize the Director of Legal Services to finalize and execute the agreements. Council previously authorized the Director of Legal Services to execute the Centre's agreements between the City and the Province for the period 2001 to 2006 and then 2006 through 2012.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Annual funding has been provided to the City by BC Housing for the Evelyne Saller Centre since 1976 and for the Gathering Place since 1996.

The last approval was in April 17, 2007. Council approved, on consent, the continued receipt of annual ongoing funding from BC Housing to provide services operated at the Evelyne Saller Centre and the Gathering Place.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS the foregoing. The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A and B.

REPORT

Background/Context

The Province (through BC Housing) funds a portion of the services provided by the Evelyne Saller Centre and the Gathering Place on behalf of the residents of the Downtown Eastside and the Downtown South who are socially and economically marginalized. Typically, people who receive services from the two Centres are on income assistance, pensions and/or low income/no income and live in SRO's in the community or are homeless (shelter or street). Services are provided to a varied demographic of youth, adults, seniors, couples and families, who are all in need of essential services.

The Evelyne Saller Centre (ESC) is located at 320 Alexander Street and is open 365 days per year. The ESC offers: food services, with over 300,000 meals per year; health/hygiene services including provision of showers, laundry and delousing; and recreation programming.

The Gathering Place (GP), located at 609 Helmcken Street is open 365 days per year. The GP offers: food services; health/hygiene services including provision of showers, laundry and delousing; recreation programming; and educational services in partnership with the Vancouver School Board.

Annual funding has been provided by the Province to the ESC since 1976 and to the GP since 1996. The ongoing provincial funding supports the following:

- At the ESC: 100% of the operating and staffing costs for food and health/hygiene services; and 50% of the administration costs.
- At the GP: 100% of the operating and staffing costs for the health/hygiene services.

Strategic Analysis

Food services provided at the Evelyne Saller Centre are a critical part of the food security network in the DTES. Health and hygiene services provided at the Evelyne Saller Centre and the Gathering Place in the Downtown South, are critical to the health of the low income and homeless populations in the DTES and Downtown South, respectively.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

BC Housing

BC Housing provides an annual budget to each Centre which is set out in the agreement, subject to any annual adjustments. The annual funding set out in the contract for the Evelyne Saller Centre is \$1,948,392; for the Gathering Place it is \$191,928; with the provision for an annual review. As a result of the budget review the 2012 budget approved by BC Housing was increased by \$3,515 for the Evelyne Saller Centre for a total of \$1,951,907, with the Gathering Place budget remaining unchanged.

City's Portion

The City's portion of funds to operate the two centres is approved as part of the City's annual budget. In 2012, the City's Net 2012 approved operating budget after funding from BC Housing is \$707,105 for the Evelyne Saller Centre and \$2,158,530 for the Gathering Place.

The Evelyne Saller Centre also generates revenue from food sales; the value of these sales in 2011 was \$422,681.

Human Resources/Labour Relations

The staff at the two centres are members of CUPE 15, with the exception of the food services at the ESC. The food services are contracted to Aramark Canada Ltd. by the City, with the approval of BC Housing. The workers in the food services are members of Unite Here Local 40.

Environmental

There are no environmental impacts.

Legal

Law and Risk Management have reviewed the contracts and concur with this recommendation.

Other

The ESC and GP provide essential services - food and health/hygiene to low income residents and the homeless in the downtown core.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Once authorization is approved and the contracts signed the management of ESC will work with Supply Management to develop an RFP for the contracted food services. There is a requirement in this contract that requires approval by BC Housing for the food service contract.

CONCLUSION

By offering reliable daily supports, seven days per week and 365 days per year, the ESC and GP contribute to the well being and stability of the poorest residents in the Downtown Eastside and Downtown South. With Council's acceptance of this report, the Director of Legal Services will be authorized to execute the current and future agreements with the Province, and ensure the continued provision of services.

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