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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 10, 2013
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: January 29, 2013

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2013 Street Cleaning Grants

RECOMMENDATION *

THAT Council approve 2013 Street Cleaning Grants totalling \$175,000 for supplementary cleaning of sidewalks, lanes and public spaces in Vancouver as follows:

- a. \$115,000 to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can, with funding of \$105,000 from the 2013 Street Cleaning Operating Budget and \$10,000 from the 2013 Street Operations Maintenance Budget,
- b. \$35,000 to Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action, with funding from the 2013 Street Cleaning Operating Budget, and
- c. \$25,000 to The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program, with funding from the 2013 Street Cleaning Operating Budget.

REPORT SUMMARY *

This report recommends grants to three social enterprise organizations totalling \$175,000 for supplementary street cleaning services in 2013. The provision of these services results in job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers, assists the recipients with leveraging additional funding, and results in cleaner streets and lanes for communities where there is the greatest need.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS *

On April 23, 2002 Council adopted a definition of Sustainability as a basis for City actions and operations. Among other things, that definition describes sustainability as being achieved through community participation. Further, on May 24, 2005 Council adopted a definition of Social Sustainability that describes human capacity as the attributes and resources individuals can contribute to their own well-being and to the well-being of the community as a whole.

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS *

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval.

REPORT:**Background/Context ***

The City's annual Street Cleaning budget is approximately \$7.7 million. This operating budget funds mechanical sweeping and flushing of streets and lanes, removal of garbage from public litter cans, and the clean-up of abandoned solid waste materials dumped illegally on City streets and lanes. To supplement these services, for the past 14 years Council has approved annual grants to social enterprise organizations that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services. Micro-cleaning involves daily collection of litter, on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts; work that is outside the scope of services provided by the City's forces. Grants for work performed in 2012 were awarded as follows:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recipient Since	2012 Amount
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	1999	\$115,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	downtown peninsula	2007	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive area	2009	\$25,000
Total			\$175,000

Grant funding provided by the City for 2012 has resulted in the following measures of success:

- 350 City blocks cleaned;
- over 13,000 work hours provided to about 275 people with barriers to traditional employment; and,
- over 7,500 bags of litter collected.

Micro-cleaning services funded by City grants also complement other street cleaning services, such as programs coordinated by Business Improvement Associations (BIA's) and the Downtown Community Courts, and that which is provided through City/Provincial Great Beginnings grant monies (\$375,000 in 2012). Due to the variety of community based street cleaning initiatives, staff work with grant recipients throughout the year to ensure cleaning resources are allocated appropriately.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets, these grants support employment and life skills training for local community residents, and assist social enterprise organizations with leveraging other funding resulting in expansions of their programs. The grant program provides linkages with the following Council priorities and corporate strategies:

- Low threshold employment supports an inclusive city and helps marginalized individuals to become more self-reliant, contributing to the goal of ending homelessness; and,
- Cleaner streets promote a safe and welcoming public realm, shows a commitment to protecting the environment and helps to convey "Greenest City".

Strategic Analysis *

For 2013 staff recommend continuing with the same level of grants provided in 2012 as part of the annual Street Cleaning Grants program:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recommended 2013 Grant
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	\$115,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	Downtown Peninsula	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive Area	\$25,000
Total		\$175,000

This will allow United We Can/SOLE to continue providing street cleaning services in the DTES, an area of the City where street cleaning demand is significant relative to other areas of the City. SOLE has consistently demonstrated they have the necessary resources and capabilities to provide a high standard of workmanship and good value to the City with respect to cleaning in DTES streets and lanes.

Grants recommended to SYJA and The Kettle are based on staff's assessment of:

- specific areas outside the DTES where street cleaning demand is particularly high,
- the additional level of service those areas would benefit from, and
- the experience and capacity demonstrated previously by those organizations to provide the level of service required.

All three organizations have demonstrated their abilities and have committed to use City funding to leverage additional funds.

Consistent with past practice, quarterly summary reports by SOLE, SYJA and The Kettle will be submitted to and monitored by Engineering Services. Required documentation will include the number of hours worked, people employed, blocks cleaned and the amount of litter collected. These reports assist City staff with measuring the success of the programs and determining priority areas for micro-cleaning services so that work can be adjusted as required. As in 2012, grant funding will be distributed quarterly, following the submission of summary reports.

Appendix A provides background information on each of the three organizations recommended for grant funding for 2013.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)**Financial ***

This report recommends a total street cleaning grant in 2013 of \$175,000 consisting of \$115,000 to SOLE, \$35,000 to SYJA and \$25,000 to The Kettle. The source of funding for 2013 includes \$165,000 from the 2013 Street Cleaning Operating Budget and \$10,000 from the 2013 Street Operations Maintenance Budget.

Human Resources/Labour Relations

There are no personnel implications. The service provided under these grants (micro-cleaning) is outside the range of services provided by the City and CUPE 1004 has been supportive of this socially sustainable grant program since its inception in 1999.

*CONCLUSION **

Street cleaning grants to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can, Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action and Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program for supplemental street cleaning services will continue to benefit marginalized residents by providing job and life skills training, and the City by helping keep streets, lanes and other public areas clean.

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Background Information on Recommended Street Cleaning Grant Recipients:

Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)

SOLE is a non-profit urban environmental group active in the DTES. The Society sponsors several projects at 39 East Hastings Street, including the United We Can Bottle Depot. A primary objective of the Society is to create self-sustaining enterprises that focus on caring for the urban environment, while also creating income and job training for people of the inner city. The program employs residents from the local community with barriers to traditional employment, giving them valuable job-training, enhanced self-esteem and improved life skills.

SOLE has utilized City grant funding over the past 14 years to provide job training and employment to individuals by performing micro-cleaning of streets and lanes in the DTES. This funding has also allowed SOLE to leverage additional funding through Business Improvement Associations (BIA's), other levels of government, and through special events.

SOLE has approximately 60 stable employees with a range of assorted barriers that clean lanes and sidewalks. As a result of this opportunity, some of the SOLE staff no longer require income assistance. SOLE's total pool of active work participants is sustained at 150 people, many of whom participate in the lane cleaning program. During the past five years SOLE's cleaning activities have increased in frequency and area as a result of the Provincially funded Great Beginnings initiative administered by the City. Great Beginnings funding combined with City grant money is funding social enterprise micro-cleaning covering approximately 119 blocks per week and several parks in the DTES and surrounding areas.

Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)

SYJA is a social enterprise committed to improving the lives of homeless or at risk youth, age 24 and under. They offer a range of services including prevention, counselling, pre-employment job training and employment opportunities. They take a unique approach with reaching out to youth, such as providing locker facilities and pet kennels in order to allow individuals to utilize their services.

Services provided by SYJA include temporary, casual or part-time employment to approximately 200 homeless or at risk youths per year on a work today, paid today basis. The program has proven to be successful in breaking down the barriers to employment and beginning the process of helping youth to acquire the confidence and skills they will need to become employable and bridge them back into the community. Long term success can be seen in staff members who were once themselves youths in the SYJA program and have now become SYJA peer counsellors.

SYJA has an established community enhancement program (micro-cleaning initiatives, needle sweeps, and graffiti removal) for its youth through partnerships with BIA's, Waste Management of Canada, and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA). With support from these organizations and businesses, they are able to receive matching funds which exceed the amount of funding provided by the City.

The 2012 grant of \$35,000 allowed SYJA to provide approximately 2500 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to about 40 youth per month through their street

enhancement program. As a result, some of these youth have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 300 bags of litter being cleaned up from over 225 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the downtown peninsula. The City's street cleaning grant allows SYJA to sustain their current program and extend it to more youth in need.

The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program

The Kettle Friendship Society is a Vancouver based organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness. The Kettle achieves this in a number of ways including provision of crisis support, advocacy, supported housing, employment and support services, a health clinic, drop-in lunch program, and recreational activities.

The Kettle runs numerous programs one of which is the SEED Employment Program. SEED (Skills, Esteem & Employment Development) assists individuals with chronic mental health issues to build the vocational skills, confidence and stamina necessary to make the transition from unemployment to satisfying work opportunities. SEED presently provides 35 various work opportunities to their clients with multiple barriers which include; landscapers, store clerks, hair stylists, kitchen prep workers and street cleaners to name a few.

The SEED Program is also part of a creative partnership with the Commercial Drive BIA. The SEED Clean Team has worked closely with the Commercial Drive BIA to conduct street cleaning services five days a week and has employed 70 people since 2003. The program gives participants an opportunity to learn new skills and to interact with the community while increasing their self-worth and benefiting the community. The service area is Commercial Drive from Adanac to 13th Ave. as well as two blocks on Broadway (beside the Skytrain station).

The 2012 grant of \$25,000 allowed The Kettle to provide 2400 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to about 5 regular members through their SEED Employment Program. As a result, some of these participants have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 600 bags of litter being cleaned up from an area covering 13 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the Commercial Drive area. The SEED Clean Team receives external funding from the Commercial Drive BIA. The City's street cleaning grant allows The Kettle to sustain their current program and extend it to more people in need.