



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: March 28, 2023
Contact: Lisa Parker
Contact No.: 604.871.6185
RTS No.: 15631
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-25
Meeting Date: June 27, 2023
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Allocation of Additional 2023 Plaza and Parklet Street Cleaning Grants

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the award of a grant of \$180,000 to Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance to expand the 2023 Plaza and Parklet micro-cleaning grant pilot program, with funding from the approved 2023 Plaza Management operating budget.

Approval of this grant recommendation requires at least 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under Section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

On February 28, 2023 as part of the 2023 Operating Budget approval, Council directed staff to increase the existing plaza and parklet microcleaning grant budget by \$180,000 to further enhance cleaning services in plazas and parklets. The funding was approved by Council as part of the February 28 2023 budget approval; the purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to grant those funds to Mission Possible – MP Maintenance to commence the increased plaza and parklet micro-cleaning service.

This additional grant supplements the 2023 Street Cleaning grants previously approved by Council on February 14, 2023 (RTS 15450), and will result in increased street cleaning service levels for plazas and parklets, as well as providing additional job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers. The services provided by the Street Cleaning Grant recipients are outside the scope and complementary to work performed by City staff.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

In March 2014, the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan passed which identified the need to support opportunities for low barrier employment and other community economic development initiatives.

In July 2014, the Healthy City Strategy passed and included a goal of Making Ends Meet along with a target to reduce poverty.

On February 14, 2023, Council approved the 2023 Street Cleaning Grant Program with awards totalling \$2,459,150, \$284,150 of which was for the Public Plazas Microcleaning Pilot Program for cleaning plazas and parklets.

On February 28, 2023 as part of the 2023 Operating Budget approval, Council directed staff to invest an additional \$180,000 in micro-cleaning grants to enhance support for plazas and parklets.

To supplement the City's street cleaning services, for the past 23 years Council has approved annual grants to non-profit agencies that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Micro-cleaning involves daily collection of litter and needles on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts, and is work that is outside the scope of services provided by the City's forces. The Public Plazas Micro-Cleaning Pilot was launched under the annual Street Cleaning Grant program in August 2019 to maintain existing and new public spaces in the City so that they remain clean, safe and inviting gathering places.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets and public spaces, these grants support employment and life skills training for local community residents. 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 goals of making ends meet, reducing poverty and reducing street homelessness;
- Cleaner streets promote a safe and welcoming public realm, shows a commitment to protecting the environment and supporting Healthy City objectives of creating environments to thrive in.

Discussion

At its February 14, 2023 meeting, Council approved \$2,459,150 in Street Cleaning Grants, awarded to six not-for profit agencies. Of this, a total of \$284,150 was allocated to the Public Plazas Micro-Cleaning Program Pilot, which was granted to Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance to undertake this work.

Public plazas and social service parklets are well-used spaces and require dedicated micro-cleaning, including collection of litter and needles, light sweeping, and wiping tables and chairs. The previously approved 2023 Street Cleaning Grant funds these services in 26 plazas and public spaces and three social service parklets outside of the DTES, as well as seasonal leaf

removal services in plazas with significant tree canopies. The additional \$180,000 will be used to supplement existing microcleaning service levels, as well as add seasonal powerwashing, and additional leaf removal, and will provide capacity to maintain new plazas and parklets implemented in 2023.

The micro-cleaning organization is required to provide ongoing metrics reporting on their work throughout the year, which are used for program and performance monitoring.

Given that Mission Possible was awarded a Street Cleaning grant in February to undertake the plaza and parklet microcleaning, the recommendation is to add the new allocation of \$180,000 to Mission Possible's existing Street Cleaning grant to increase the service levels they are already delivering to plazas and parklets.

Human Resource Implications

There are no personnel implications. The incremental services under the grant program supplement work performed by City crews and the micro-cleaning services funded through the program do not constitute work that has historically been performed by City staff.

Environmental Implications

The micro-cleaning services provided by the grant recipient significantly reduces litter in public plazas and parklets, and addresses seasonal cleaning needs, making them more welcoming spaces for the public. Collection of this material reduces the amount of litter, including plastics, from reaching the surrounding waterbodies. The lack of litter and seasonal debris in plazas and parklets also fosters a sense the spaces are cared for, and helps establish norms for these well-used public spaces.

Financial Implications

Finance has reviewed and confirmed that the \$180,000 for the micro-cleaning grants is available from the Plaza Management budget in the approved 2023 annual Public Works operating budget.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report's recommendations.

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APPENDIX A BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GRANT RECIPIENT

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society (MP) is a community economic development organization that transforms lives by helping those challenged by homelessness and poverty achieve a renewed sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work. MP uses the motivation and desire for meaningful work as a catalyst for total life transformation. MP's 4 stage Employment Readiness Program assists those with employment barriers reach their full potential. Mission Possible looks beyond simple provision of resources toward comprehensive community economic development strategy that creates a pathway to sustainable livelihoods. This pathway includes soft-skill training, employment coaching, and paid jobs that lead to lasting change for DTES residents. Over the past year MP has provided over 37,000 hours of work & training hours and transitional employment opportunities to over 105 local residents. The City grant supports participants working in MP's largest social enterprise, MP Maintenance, a full-service exterior property cleaning company. MP performs micro-cleaning throughout the DTES, plazas and priority service areas, and participates in the BIA micro-cleaning services and the feces removal service.

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