

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on October 9, 2024

1. Fee Waiver Grant to Support the "Victory Square Banner Program"

Submitted by: Councillor Montague and Councillor Zhou

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Victory Square is a revered city tradition and deeply ingrained in Vancouver's cultural fabric. It is the oldest continuing annual ceremony in the city and attracts thousands of people, rain or shine;
2. The act of Remembrance is one of the most important ways to honour and thank Veterans for their sacrifices and to ensure that Canada never forgets the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, RCMP, Peace Officers, Merchant Navy, and Reserves;
3. We also remember Canada's military families on Remembrance Day – the mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters of Canadian Veterans – who greatly appreciate this annual day of observance;
4. Vancouver's solemn Remembrance Day ceremony includes the "Last Post" and the "Lament" as well as a fly-past, the change of the guard, wreath-laying, and a parade of veterans, military units, cadets, police, brass bands, pipes, and drums;
5. The City of Vancouver has the unique distinction of being the only city in Canada that supports a civic volunteer committee – the Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee. The Remembrance Day Committee diligently and unfailingly serves to organize and conduct the annual November 11th ceremony and ensures that the legacy of our veterans is honoured by the people of our city and beyond;
6. This year, Vancouver's Remembrance Day ceremony is particularly significant as it will be the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph, Metro Vancouver's primary monument commemorating the valor and sacrifices of the Canadian Armed Forces' veterans;
7. The Cenotaph stands as a symbol of our collective memory and gratitude towards those who have served our nation, which it has done since its inception in 1924 following the City of Vancouver's acquisition of Victory Square in 1917;
8. To mark the Cenotaph centennial this year, a collaborative effort between volunteers, i.e., the Legion's BC/Yukon Command and ANAVETS BC Command, has given rise to the "Victory Square 100" project which aims to commemorate our veterans' heroism in a distinctive and memorable manner;
9. A key feature of the "Victory Square 100" project is the installation of banners adorned with photographs of veterans. These banners will be prominently displayed on street lamp posts along major thoroughfares in the city, with a

special focus on Victory Square and the Chinatown Memorial Square. This visual homage will not only enhance the cityscape but will also serve as a constant reminder of the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans to residents and visitors alike;

10. Following the Victory Square ceremony, many dignitaries participate in a remembrance ceremony held at Chinatown's Memorial Square. The ANAVETS Pacific Unit # 280 has therefore proposed to put up additional banners in Chinatown to honour Chinese Canadian veterans who fought for Canada in both World Wars and other conflicts where Chinese Canadians also served;
11. The valiant contributions of Chinese Canadian veterans stand alongside the long, proud tradition of military service to our country by Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis people), as well as Japanese, Sikh, and other diverse groups that have been instrumental in our nation's military efforts during times of war. Their sacrifices and dedication are a testament to the strength and resilience of Canada's multicultural fabric;
12. In order to help bring the Victory Square Banner vision to life and ensure that the program is executed with the dignity and respect it deserves, The Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee has requested a \$15,000 grant from the City (nominally divided into a \$10,000 grant to the Legion and a \$5,000 grant to the ANAVETS for the Chinatown initiative);
13. By supporting additional "Victory Square 100" banners in Chinatown, we not only recognize the valour, sacrifices, and military service of Chinese Canadians during both World Wars and in other conflicts, we also acknowledge the pivotal role Chinese Canadian veterans played in our nation's history. Their contributions not only secured citizenship and voting rights for Chinese Canadians, they also paved the way for equal professional opportunities in sectors previously closed to them such as law, engineering, and medicine;
14. The "Victory Square Banner Program" is a fitting tribute to our veterans and a testament to Vancouver's commitment to honouring our history and those who have shaped it; and
15. Under Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council has the authority to deem any organization that is to receive a grant, which is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), to be an organization contributing to the health or welfare of the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT in recognition of our veterans in this centennial year of the Victory Square Cenotaph, Council direct staff to apply one-time grants to offset costs related to the banner installation, including rental fees for the Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command and the ANAVETS Pacific Unit #280's Remembrance Day commemorations.
- B. THAT Council approve one-time grants of \$10,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command and \$5,000 to the ANAVETS Pacific Unit #280 to

offset costs related to the banner installation, including rental fees. The funding source for these one-time grants is the Engineering Services operating budget.

- C. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is not a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, and that is to receive a grant pursuant to this motion, to be an organization contributing to the culture or welfare of the city.

- D. THAT Council authorize the General Manager, Engineering Services to negotiate and execute agreements or documents to support the grants described in this motion on terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager, Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of Resolutions A through D unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

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