



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: December 22, 2025
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Meeting Date: January 20, 2026
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2026 Supplemental Street Cleaning Grant (DTES - Project Hope)

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve a 2026 Street Cleaning Grant of \$920,000 to Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance (Mission Possible) to support street cleanliness and low-barrier employment, as detailed in the report.
- B. THAT Council approve annual grants of \$1,000,000 for 2027 and 2028 to the same organization as outlined in Recommendation A, bringing the three-year total to \$2,920,000, subject to approval of grant funding as part of the annual budgeting process, and Mission Possible's continued ability to meet grant requirements.
- C. THAT Council delegate its authority to the General Manager of Engineering Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in Recommendations A and B on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- D. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems the organization listed in Appendix B of this report that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

Approval of Recommendations A and B require at least 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under Section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

No legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report recommends awarding a three-year supplemental street cleaning grant to Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance (Mission Possible) for services in the Hastings Corridor/DTES area and vicinity. The proposed funding is:

- 2026: \$920,000
- 2027: \$1,000,000
- 2028: \$1,000,000

The 2027 and 2028 grants are subject to approved annual funding and performance.

These grants will:

- Provide low-barrier employment and life skills training for individuals facing employment barriers;
- Improve street cleanliness in high-needs areas; and,
- Support unhoused individuals through street outreach, referrals, and community-building connections.

This initiative continues services launched in 2023 under *Project Hope*, including micro-cleaning, sidewalk pressure washing, and peer-led street outreach. Mission Possible's services complement work performed by City crews and align with Council priorities for poverty reduction, inclusion, and a clean, safe public realm.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

In July 2014, Council approved the Healthy City Strategy which included a goal of “Making Ends Meet” along with a target to reduce poverty.

In July 2023, Council approved the 2024 Social Policy Grants Program, which included actions to lower barriers to access and creating efficiencies, such as consideration of multi-year grants to provide key community partners with stable funding commitments.

In February 2024, the annual Street Cleaning Grant Program transitioned to a three-year award cycle to provide more certainty for non-profit organizations and create process efficiencies.

In December 2024, Council approved an amendment to the 2025 Operating Budget to allocate \$1M for Mission Possible's Public Realm Cleaning initiative (*Project Hope*) funded from within the 2025 Arts, Culture and Community Services – Social Policy Grants budget.

For the past 26 years, Council has approved annual grants to non-profit organizations for the provision of micro-cleaning services to supplement street cleaning performed by City crews.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations. The Street Cleaning Grant is a long-standing program with significant social and environmental benefits, complementing the Healthy City Strategy and the DTES Local Area Plan. These recommendations ensure

continuity of supplemental street cleaning in high-needs areas, while creating employment and life skills training opportunities for marginalized residents.

Context and Background

In 2023, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) provided funding to the City of Vancouver to address some of the impacts of the Hastings Street encampment. The City contracted Mission Possible to deliver *Project Hope*, focusing on:

- Improving cleanliness and sanitary conditions
- Maintaining pedestrian accessibility and safe building access
- Reducing fire hazards
- Providing job support and skills training opportunities for individuals with employment barriers
- Providing information about available services to people experiencing homelessness

Services included daily micro-cleaning (collection of litter and needles on foot using brooms, shovels, and wheeled garbage carts), sidewalk pressure washing, and peer-led outreach to promote safety and cleanliness while building community connections.

UBCM funding ended mid-2024; the City continued funding thereafter. Funding history:

Year	UBCM	City
2023 (Mar-Dec)	\$0.8M	N/A
2024	\$0.5M	\$0.5M
2025	N/A	\$1M

2025 Results (to the end of November):

- **16,900** low-threshold employment hours
- **17,400** bags of litter and 26,700 needles collected
- Pressure washing equivalent of **240** blocks
- **1,030** service referrals and **60** de-escalations

The proposed grant for 2026 - 2028 will maintain these services, with flexibility to adjust based on emerging needs identified by staff.

Discussion

A grant application process was initiated in the fall of 2025. To ensure program flexibility and ability to meet emerging community needs, the grant is recommended to be awarded to one non-profit organization which can provide all three services: micro-cleaning, pressure washing and community outreach.

Like the multi-year award structure for the city-wide Street Cleaning Grant (2024-2026), the award is for three-years (2026-2028), subject to annual funding. This provides the organization with certainty, stability, and creates efficiencies in City processes.

Five eligible non-profit organizations submitted applications through an open grant application process. The award to Mission Possible is recommended based on their demonstrated resources and capabilities to consistently deliver the required street cleaning programs, while successfully providing income generation and applied skills training opportunities for youth and adults facing barriers to traditional employment.

Recommended grants: Year	Amount
2026	\$920,000
2027*	\$1,000,000
2028*	\$1,000,000

**Subject to approved budget*

Mission Possible will provide ongoing performance metrics reporting for monitoring throughout the year. Appendix A provides a summary of key program performance indicators. Appendix B provides Mission Possible's background.

Human Resource Implications

There are no personnel implications. The services under the grant program supplement work by City crews and do not constitute work historically performed by City staff.

Environmental Implications

The grant program supports maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, and helps prevent litter, including plastics, from reaching the surrounding waterbodies.

Financial Implications

Funding is available for this grant from the Council-approved 2026 budget.

Legal Implications

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

Conclusion

The supplemental street cleaning grant will continue to deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits by improving public realm cleanliness, supporting marginalized individuals through employment and training, and fostering community connections. This investment aligns with Council priorities for inclusion, poverty reduction, and a safe, clean city.

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APPENDIX A
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Public Realm Cleaning Initiative

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS –SUMMARY

	2023 (March-Dec)	2024	2025 (Jan – Nov)
Low Barrier Work Hours Provided	13,400	19,300	16,900
Bags of Garbage Collected	10,000	17,600	16,000
Number of Needles Collected	32,800	46,400	24,600
Number of Blocks Pressure Washed	230	290	220
Number of De-Escalations	170	120	60
Number of Service Referrals	670	1260	960

APPENDIX B
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RECOMMENDED GRANT RECIPIENT

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society (Mission Possible) 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. Mission Possible uses the motivation and desire for meaningful work as a catalyst for total life transformation.

Mission Possible's four 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. From May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, Mission Possible provided transitional employment opportunities to 148 local residents, 44 of whom successfully transitioned to employment outside of Mission Possible after their time in the Employment Readiness Program.