

February 7, 2007

To: Finance Committee

From: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt

Re: Disability Resource Centre (DRC) Relocation to 6931 Granville Avenue

Council members are well aware of the need for the Disability Resource Centre to relocate to a larger space and more appropriate location. The property at 6931 Granville Ave. has been identified as an ideal location and Council instructed staff to meet with the DRC to discuss needed tenant improvements, the cost of those improvements and possible lease terms. The DRC and staff have met several times and discussed the preceding issues.

The cost of the renovations has been projected to be \$290,314.50. The DRC is not in a position to pay for those costs at this time. They are willing to commit to a 50% cost sharing of the tenant improvements with a repayment schedule over several years.

The City's partnership with the DRC will improve the likelihood of the DRC being able to secure matching funds from various Foundations.

The services provided by the Disability Resource Centre are unique and indispensable. The DRC provided service to 15,600 individuals last year of which 85% were Richmond residents. The new location would allow them to continue providing these services and to expand their programming to meet the growing needs of the community.

I would therefore recommend that:

- 1. The City and the Disability Resource Centre each be responsible for 50% of the cost of a Tenant Improvements required to relocate the DRC to 6931 Granville Ave.**
- 2. The cost of the improvements is not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars in total.**
- 3. The City pay for the improvements up front and that the DRC repay their 50% back to the City over a mutually agreed upon repayment schedule**
- 4. Staff negotiate a lease agreement with the DRC that is not based on commercial rates**
- 5. That staff identify all possible funding sources for this project**

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt