



To: Mayor & Councillors
From: Chuck Gale, P. Eng.
General Manager, Community Safety
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Firefighters – “Climbing for Wishes” Team

To General Purposes - May 20, 2003
Date: April 2, 2003
File: 0090-01

Staff Recommendation

That the City assist the “Climbing for Wishes” Team in their fundraising program for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of BC and Yukon, as outlined in the attached report.

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
[Signature]

Staff Report

Origin

Five members of Richmond's Fire-Rescue firefighters have formed the "Climbing for Wishes" Team which will attempt to summit Mt McKinley (the tallest mountain in North America) in May, 2004. This climb is in connection with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of BC and Yukon. Richmond Fire-Rescue has a long history of working with the Foundation to make special wishes come true for children who are experiencing life threatening illnesses.

The Team plans to leave Vancouver in early May, 2004, flying into Anchorage, Alaska where the climb will take approximately twenty-eight days, reaching the summit (20,320 feet) in late May. To enable the Team to achieve their fundraising goal, a great deal of financial support is required, and the City has been approached with a request for some assistance with the project.

Analysis

The "Climbing for Wishes" Team has a goal of raising \$203,000 (\$10 for every foot in elevation of the mountain), all of which goes to the Make a Wish Foundation.

In preparation for their climb, the team needs to undergo rigorous training between now and next May. This consists of training climbs outside of the Vancouver area. The team has expressed a need for support, during their training period, in the form of team transportation for a six man team, plus their equipment. This could be accommodated through the use of a City van or equivalent vehicle. The City can accommodate this request with our current vehicle fleet. Staff have been advised by ICBC that the City's Fleet Insurance coverage makes provision for use of City vehicles by staff for non-business use. Additional coverage for collision and comprehensive will be addressed by Fleet Staff.

Over and above the issue of insurance, staff advise that the team would be asked to sign a waiver ensuring the City would not be held liable for any damages/injuries incurred by the team either to themselves or others.

In addition to this request, the use of the City website and intranet to raise awareness of the event and provide updates to the public would greatly assist the team's endeavours.

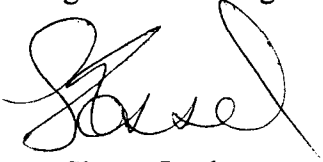
Team members have prepared a presentation to launch the fundraising program this Spring, and will preview the six minute video for Council to provide further information on the program.

Financial Impact

The only financial impact of this request would be for fuel and any additional insurance costs for the vehicle.

Conclusion

The firefighters involved in this project have committed themselves to obtaining support and funding for this worthwhile venture, and City involvement would further enhance the Team's goal of fulfilling the wishes of children involved in the Make-A-Wish program.



Shawn Issel
Manager, Divisional Planning