



City of Richmond

Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council
From: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair, General Purposes Committee
Re: **THE HEART OF RICHMOND AIDS SOCIETY**

Date: November 7th, 2002
File: 1085-01

The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting held on Monday, November 4th, 2002, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

That the City provide \$10,000 to the Heart of Richmond Aids Society, with funding to be taken from the 2002 Casino Revenue Account.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
General Purposes Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That the request of \$10,000 for the Heart of Richmond Aids Society BE DENIED.

Staff Report

Origin

On October 4, 2002 Mayor and Council received a letter (Attachment 1) from the HEART of Richmond AIDS Society requesting funds of \$10,000 from the Casino Account. This report will address the request as outlined in the letter and make a recommendation for Council consideration.

Findings Of Fact

The AIDS Society has been working with persons with HIV/AIDS in Richmond and neighbouring communities for the last 6 years.

They have a part time project co-ordinator, who counsels HIV/AIDS clients. Her position is funded through the BC Gaming Commission and their next funding allocation will not be distributed by BCGC until March 2003. The end of November/02 will exhaust the current funding for this position. The Society is asking Council for a grant of \$10,000 from Casino funds to cover the cost of the counsellor until funding is available from the BCGC.

There are a number of options, which Council may wish to consider. These are to:

1. Provide funds from 2002 Casino Fund – Presently there is \$79,000 remaining in the 2002 Casino fund. This request does not fit within the Casino Guidelines as stated, as it is not a **new** program yet Council has the authority to spend the money as they see fit. At the September 9, 2002 meeting of Council the question of the use of the remaining \$79,000 in Casino funds was discussed. The understanding from that meeting was to not spend the remaining funds at this time.
2. Provide funds from 2003 Grants Program – The 2003 grant process will not be finished and the funds dispersed until January 2003. This would not meet the timing needs of the Society.
3. Guarantee a loan from a financial institution in the amount of \$10,000. This requires Council to do a number of things in line with the Local Government Act. This is not suggested for a number of reasons. Should the City wish to pursue this avenue the cost to the City of making this arrange would be approximately \$2000 and may set a precedent for other groups in the City. As well as this, the Society could not afford to pay the loan back.
4. Deny the Request

Financial Impact

Option 1 – The 2002 casino account has \$79,000 remaining in the budget for this year, should Council wish to entertain this option.

Conclusion

The AIDS Society provides a very worthwhile service to the residents of Richmond but at this time find themselves in a difficult financial position in meeting their commitment to their Counsellor/Project Co-ordinator position.

The above options, that are available, either does not fit within the Society's circumstances or the City's timing and may set a precedent for other community groups.

There is some money in the 2002 Casino fund but as the request does not fit within the Casino guidelines as stated, staff feel the request should be denied.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Stevens'.

Anne Stevens
Manager, Customer Services

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