

# City of Richmond

# **Report to Council**

To:

Richmond City Council

Date:

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002

From:

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie

File:

1085-01

. . . . . . .

Chair, General Purposes Committee

Re:

THE HEART OF RICHMOND AIDS SOCIETY

The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting held on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Anne Stevens

Manager, Customer Services

AS2:as2

TO: MAYOR & EACH
COUNCILLOR
FROM: A/CITY CLERK

Attachment 1

11051 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC V7A 1X3 Telephone: 604-277-5137 Fax: 604-277-5131

> E-mail: horas@telus.net www.heartofrichmond.com

September 30th, 2002

The Mayor and Councillors, The City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

PHOTOCOPIED & DISTRIBUTED DATE: Oct 402 RS

1085-01

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Request for Casino Funding

The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society has been working with persons with HIV/AIDS in Richmond and neighbouring communities for the last six years. As you may know, we were instrumental in the establishment of the Gilwest Clinic at The Richmond Hospital three years ago. This clinic has grown and has become an example for other communities outside Vancouver.

During the last few weeks we have had three pieces of bad news:

- Our office, at the South Arm United Church, will no longer be available after the end of the year because the Church needs it for its own use. We have been able to use this office for a nominal rent.
- We have used the premises of Richmond Youth Services Agency for our weekly support group for the last five years, free of charge. RYSA are now vacating their premises on St. Albans Road and have kindly offered us the use of their new space on River Road. This, unfortunately, will be a smaller, less comfortable area, which is not really suitable for our monthly dinners.
- We have a part-time Project Coordinator/Counsellor who has made a real difference with her skills and experience in counselling HIV/AIDS clients. Her position is funded through the BC Gaming Commission and we have been advised by BCGC that our next funding will not be distributed until March 2003. The current funding will be used up by the end of November 2002.

We are working hard to resolve our accommodation issues but we are appealing to you for help with the funding of the Project Coordinator/Counsellor position. It would be a great loss to the community if her work did not continue. The cost of maintaining her position from December 1st to the end of March would be about \$10,000. We are asking whether this amount of money could be made available from the City Casino Funds so that our important work might continue.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at my home number, 604-275-9564.

Yours truly

Brian Wardley Secretary DATE DATE

OCT - 3 2002

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CITY OF RICHMOND

RECEIVED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Charitable Registration No. 88567 1230 REDOOL