

NO: **F019**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 6, 2013**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 30, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Dry Grad Grants Budget**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve an increase from \$1800 (\$100 per secondary school) to \$4500 (\$250 per secondary school) in the Dry Grad Grants budget for 2013 in support of Dry Grad celebrations at Surrey Secondary Schools and instruct staff to include such an allocation in future annual budgets for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

Each year, Council approves financial support to the community by way of various grants and exemption programs. This includes one-time grants, property tax exemptions, public leisure access programs, Council-directed projects (Council initiatives) and cultural grants, among others.

Starting in 1994, Council allocated funds in each annual budget to provide a grant of \$100 to each of Surrey's Secondary Schools for use towards Dry Grad celebrations. The amount of the grant to each secondary school has remained unchanged since that time. There are currently 18 secondary schools in Surrey that would qualify for such a Dry Grad Grant.

DISCUSSION

As part of the 2013 budget approval process, Council allocated \$1,800 for Dry Grad Celebrations, being \$100 for each of the 18 secondary schools. The grant is intended to encourage the organization of Dry Grad Celebrations so that graduating students can celebrate in a safe and fun environment that is free of drugs and alcohol. These types of events require a strong commitment from both the organizing committee and the community to ensure success.

In recognition of inflation that has occurred over the years since 1994 when the Dry Grad Grants were first implemented by the City, staff is proposing that the amount of funding that is available through a Dry Grad Grant for each secondary school be increased to \$250 from \$100 and that this be made effective for 2013 Dry Grad events. The overall Dry Grad Grants budget will need to be increased from \$1800 to \$4500 to accommodate such an increase in the grant per school.

Funding

Funds are available from sundry sources within the current 2013 Grants Budget to accommodate the proposed increase in the Dry Grad Grants budget for 2013.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve an increase from \$1800 (\$100 per secondary school) to \$4500 (\$250 per secondary school) in the Dry Grad Grants budget for 2013 in support of Dry Grad Celebrations at Surrey Secondary Schools and instruct staff to include such an allocation in future annual budgets for Council's consideration.

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