

NO: R046

COUNCIL DATE: April 17, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 13, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Corporate Services**

FILE: **1540-20**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award and Volunteer Appreciation Reception**

RECOMMENDATION

The Corporate Services Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Authorize staff to initiate the process to solicit nominations for the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award for 2023; and
3. Authorize staff to recognize volunteers of City Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2023.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to initiate the process to solicit nominations for the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award and to recognize volunteers of City Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award (the "Award") is presented on an annual basis to a Surrey resident who has provided outstanding service for the betterment of the community. The recipient of the Award is chosen by Council from a list of nominees submitted to the City by the community. The Policy was adopted by Council on March 17, 1980 and revised on January 28, 1991 and July 27, 2020. The current Policy is attached as Appendix "I".

It should be noted that, in addition to the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award, the City also acknowledges citizen contribution toward the betterment of the community through a number of recognition initiatives including the following:

- Civic Distinction Awards Program;
- The City Facilitated Annual Awards; and
- Council Appointed Awards.

A brief summary of the above recognition initiatives is included in Appendix "II".

Attached as Appendix "III" is a list of past Surrey Good Citizen of the Year award recipients for Council's information.

DISCUSSION

As noted above, the current Policy outlines that the honour will be awarded to a Surrey citizen who has provided outstanding service for the betterment of the community. The current process is that nominations are reviewed by Council with a decision made by Council resolution.

Nominations are solicited through social media, the City's website, and word of mouth. The nomination period usually runs for approximately six weeks. This is consistent with the City's past approach.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

The Volunteer Appreciation Reception ("VAR") is a reception event that is hosted yearly to recognize the volunteer members who serve on City Committees, Commissions and Boards. In 2022, the VAR took place at the Civic Hotel Banquet Room on July 19, 2022 with approximately 77 people in attendance. With the expansion of committees this year, it is anticipated that approximately 200 volunteers will be invited.

Legal Services Review

This report has been reviewed by Legal Services.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to initiate the process to solicit nominations for the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year award, and to recognize volunteers of City Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2023 through an in-person reception event in the fall of 2023.

Rob Costanzo
General Manager, Corporate Services

Appendix "I": City Policy No. D-4 entitled "Surrey Good Citizen of the Year"

Appendix "II": Other City Recognition Initiatives

Appendix "III": Surrey Good Citizen of the Year - Past Recipients



CITY POLICY

No. D-4

REFERENCE:	APPROVED BY:	CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES 17 MARCH 1980 PAGE 4	DATE:	27 July 2020 2020-R124; Res.R20-1249
	HISTORY:	28 JAN 1991 17 MARCH 1980

TITLE: SURREY GOOD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

1. This Policy shall be reviewed on a yearly basis prior to soliciting for nominations.
2. Nominations will be solicited through social media, the City's website, and word of mouth, for a period not less than 6 weeks.
3. Nominations should be submitted to the Legislative Services Department and will be accepted from individuals and organizations.
4. Selection criteria includes that:
 - The individual is a current resident or business owner during the years of service under consideration;
 - The honour be awarded to an individual who has given outstanding service for at least 15 years;
 - Volunteer contributions have had a positive influence in the City of Surrey and to its residents;
 - That elected officials currently holding office, not be considered for this award;
 - That any person that is not politically active including former elected officials may be considered for this award.
5. When selecting a recipient of the award Council will also consider the diversity and demographics in the City and look to ensure that the award recipients reflective of this over time.
6. The nominations of each candidate shall be reviewed by Council and a simple majority vote is required to select a recipient of the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award.

Civic Distinction Awards Program

On October 7, 2019, Council supported the direction of Corporate Report No. R197; 2019, entitled "Enhancing and Renaming the City Awards Program as the Civic Distinction Awards Program" which directed staff to initiate planning and implementation of the next Civic Distinction Awards Program ceremony scheduled for October 2020. The report outlined that the ceremony takes place every three years and included recommendations for changes to the program. There were changes to the awards in order to streamline existing award categories, the program was renamed to enhance communication and branding and the awards will now be presented every four years instead of three years.

The Civic Distinction Awards Program includes the following awards:

- Beautiful City Award
- Green City Award
- Heart in the City Award
- Heritage in the City Award
- Sport Tourism in the City Award
- New City Design Award
- Mayor's Choice Award

City Facilitated Annual Awards

The following awards facilitated by the City are coordinated outside of the Civic Distinction Awards Program and include Surrey Civic Treasure Award, SASSY (Service Above Self Surrey Youth) Awards (in partnership with the Semiahmoo Rotary Club), and Outdoor Sport Volunteer Appreciation Awards.

Council Appointed Awards

Further to the Surrey Good Citizen of the Year Award, there are four additional awards directed by Council policy that bestow an honour on a citizen, as outlined below:

- Freeman of the Municipality – Policy D-2, established in 1980 and updated in 1991

This honour is restricted to only very exceptional cases, and in order to maintain this award at the high level it deserves, it will require that Council take a very strict position of reserving the honour for only those specific cases of exceedingly high merit.

- Annual Award for Bravery – Policy D-3, established in 1980 and updated in 1991

This honour may be bestowed to any Surrey resident performing an act of bravery either within or outside of the municipality.

- Municipal Merit Book – Policy D-5, established in 1980 and updated in 1991

This honour may be bestowed to citizens of Surrey who have brought distinction to themselves and the Municipality by outstanding services in a broad area of endeavours, and would be the more appropriate honour to be given in most cases of awards recognizing outstanding merit in such areas as fine arts, business, community efforts, education, labour, legal professions, medical professions, the press, scientific research and engineering and sports.

- Municipal Recognition Award – Policy D-6, established in 1978 and updated in 1991

This honour may be bestowed to Surrey citizens who receive national or international honours or perform noteworthy deeds.



CITY POLICY

No. D-2

REFERENCE:	APPROVED BY:	CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES 17 MARCH 1980 PAGE 4	DATE:	28 JAN 1991
	HISTORY:	17 MARCH 1980

TITLE: FREEMAN OF MUNICIPALITY

1. Under Section 279 of the Municipal Act, Council has the power to confer freedom of the Municipality upon distinguished persons.
2. This honour shall be restricted to only very exceptional cases, and in order to maintain this award at the high level it deserves, it will require the Council of the day to take a very strict position of reserving the honour for only those particular cases of exceedingly high merit.
3. In the case of granting the Freeman honour, each presentation shall have a special and separate ceremony.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.



CITY POLICY

No. D-3

REFERENCE:	APPROVED BY:	CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES 17 MARCH 1980 PAGE 4	DATE:	28 JAN 1991
	HISTORY:	17 MARCH 1980

TITLE: ANNUAL AWARD FOR BRAVERY (Pierlet Award)

The Council shall make an award in memory of R. Pierlet of the R.C.M.P. and the award shall be made to any Surrey resident performing an act of bravery either within or outside of the Municipality.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.



CITY POLICY

No. D-5

REFERENCE:	APPROVED BY:	CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES 17 MARCH 1980 PAGE 4	DATE:	28 JAN 1991
	HISTORY:	17 MARCH 1980

TITLE: MUNICIPAL MERIT BOOK

1. This honour shall be bestowed on citizens of Surrey who have brought distinction to themselves and the Municipality by outstanding services in a broad area of endeavours, and would be the more appropriate honour to be given in most cases of awards recognizing outstanding merit.
2. The purpose of this book is to constitute an award of honour to Surrey Citizens who have brought distinction to the Municipality by outstanding achievement in some line of endeavour such as fine arts, business and commerce, community efforts, education, labour, legal and medical professions, the press, scientific research and engineering, sports, or some other worthy activity.
3. The Surrey Municipal Merit Book shall be kept during office hours in the office of the Mayor who shall be responsible for the observance of these or any other rules passed by the Municipal Council.
4. No entry shall be made in the book save on the resolution of the Municipal Council passed by a unanimous vote of all members of the Council present.
5. Upon entry being made in the book honouring any person, there shall be included a statement of the reasons why this Municipality has thought fit to bestow this honour together with such other information regarding him as may be considered worthy of recording.
6. A gold civic recognition medal or scroll shall be granted to any person whose name is entered therein.
7. Upon any entry being made in the book honouring any person, a copy of such entry shall be circulated to the members of Council.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.

8. The Municipal Merit Book shall be considered for most of the highly honoured cases for citizens and servants of the Municipality who have brought distinction to themselves and the Municipality for outstanding service in a field or fields of endeavour.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.



CITY POLICY

No. D-6

REFERENCE:	APPROVED BY:	CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES 9 JAN 1978 PAGE 34	DATE:	28 JAN 1991
	HISTORY:	9 JANUARY 1978

TITLE: MUNICIPAL RECOGNITION AWARD

1. This award shall allow Municipal recognition to be given to Surrey citizens who receive National or International honours or perform noteworthy deeds. The type of award, i.e. medal, scroll and the method of presentation shall vary with the degree of importance attached to the particular occasion and circumstances.
2. The Municipal Recognition Award, in the form of medals or by other suitable means, shall be given to individuals, teams or groups, who achieve National or International honours, or perform a noteworthy deed. This award shall be conferred only upon affirmation by a majority vote of Council.
3. The Municipal Recognition Award shall be considered for many areas of endeavour. The honour shall be tailored to the circumstances in each case.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Local Government Act, or other relevant legislation or Union agreement.

*Surrey Good Citizen of the Year**Past Recipients*

1978	Frank McKinnon
1979	C.G. (Charlie) Dunstall
1980	Dorothy Shepherd
1981	Leslie Eggleton
1982	Ivy Adamson
1983	Lucille & Lionel Courchene
1984	Reverend Harry Parker
1985	Hulda Roddan
1986	Bill Hastings
1987	Charles Barham
1988	Alice MacKay
1989	A. Wes Gillis
1990	Dave Crozier
1991	Ray Sheward
1992	Wady Lehmann
1993	Doreen Biener
1994	James Pottie
1995	Al Cleaver
1996	Francisca Darts
1997	Margaret Westerman
1998	Elly Arnold
1999	Chuck Bailey
2000	Roy Strang
2001	Sherrold Haddad
2002	Raghibir Bains
2003	Peter Maarsman
2004	Eileen Gratland
2005	Lucie Matich
2006	Bruno Zappone
2007	Volkmar (Wally) Sandvoss
2008	Jim King
2009	Marie Cooper
2010	Bill McNamara
2011	Avril Flather
2012	Deb Jack
2013	Bill Reid
2014	Ron Meadley
2015	Michael Wilson
2016	Rick Hart
2017	Bob McMurray
2018	James Good
2019	A recipient was not selected
2020	James Bennett
2021	John Block
2022	A recipient was not selected