



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of August 1, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 18, 2019
From: Jo-Ann O'Connor, Deputy Director of Finance
Subject: Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association 2019 Strategic Plan Grant

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is in response to Council's direction to bring forward information regarding the impact of the Strategic Plan Grant allocation to the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association.

On June 13th, Council was presented with the 2019 Strategic Plan Grant application (Appendix A) for the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association and the External Grant Review Committee's suggested recommendation. The report recommended the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association be awarded \$25,000 of the \$69,000 requested amount for crossing guard services for January to December 2019.

After communicating with the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association they confirmed they cannot provide services for September and beyond for The City of Victoria with the \$25,000 grant as the association has already spent this money on crossing guard expenses for January through to June 2019. (Appendix B).

During the transition from Beacon Community Services to the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association it was recognized Beacon Community Services did not apply for a 2018 Strategic Plan Grant to align funding for the September 2018 to June 2019 school year. In July 2018, the new association presented a letter to Council (Appendix C) requesting a grant to pay for crossing guard expenses September through to December 2018. Council provided a grant of \$27,725 to cover expenses for this period. The association continued to pay for crossing guard services from January 2019 to June 2019 before their application was reviewed and considered the City of Victoria.

The Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association realizes they do not have adequate funding for the September 2019 to June 2020 school year to continue with the program in Victoria. They have since requested that Council provide an additional grant beyond the amount received of \$25,000 to align the school years that were inadvertently missed in the 2018 request.

The association is requesting an additional \$69,000 to cover crossing guard expenses from September 2019 through to June 2020. This request would increase current service levels from previous year by filling vacancies at the intersections of Bay and Forbes and Hillside and Doncaster. To continue with current service levels a grant of \$55,731 is needed to cover crossing guard expenses from September 2019 through to June 2020.

The Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association was formed after Beacon Community Services discontinued the management of the crossing guards program July 1st, 2018. Historically the City provided grants to Beacon Community Services for the crossing guard program in 2015, 2016 and 2017 in the amounts of \$30,000, \$37,440 and \$37,500 respectively. City contributions to school crossing guard programs date back to 1997 when the City first participated in a pilot project with School District 61 and the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.

The association is currently relying on grants from other municipalities in addition to the ones provided by the City of Victoria. All other funding partners (District of Saanich, District of Oak Bay, Town of View Royal, McCauley PAC and the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority) have confirmed contribution amounts for the 2019/2020 school year.

The City is committed to organizing a forum with elected officials from municipalities, the School District, along with community and agency partners in the fall to discuss sustainable funding options in advance of planned catchment boundary changes for the 2020/2021 school year.

The Transportation Division has confirmed its intention of reviewing all crossing guard locations and updating criteria to reflect changing land use, new infrastructure and changing travel patterns associated with catchment areas modifications prior to any future grants.

Given the recent correspondence from the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association, Council may wish to consider one of the following options:

Option 1

Provide the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association an additional grant of \$69,000 in addition to the recently awarded \$25,000 grant. This amount requested would cover expenses from September 2019 to June 2020 and increase service levels from prior years by filling vacancies at the Bay and Forbes, Hillside and Doncaster intersections.

Option 2

Provide the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association with an additional grant of \$55,731 in addition to the recently awarded \$25,000 grant. The amount requested would cover current crossing guard expenses from September 2019 to June 2020 and maintain current service levels without filling vacancies.

Option 3

Do not provide the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association with an additional grant amount for the September 2019 to June 2020 school year. Under this option the association would be unable to provide further services for The City of Victoria starting September 2019, and further more would be required to pay back grant amounts awarded for the 2019/2020 school year.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Lockhart
Manager, Revenue



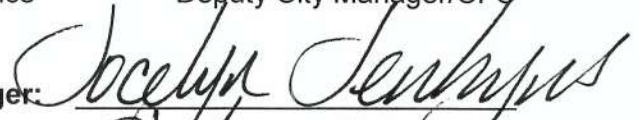
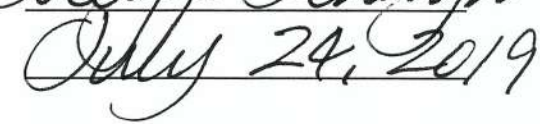
Jo-Ann O'Connor,
Deputy Director of Finance



Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager/CFO

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:

List of Attachments

Appendix A: 2019 Strategic Plan Grant Application

Appendix B: Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association emails to the City

Appendix C: Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association July 2018 letter