

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

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Submitted by / Soumis par:

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SUBJECT: BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF OTTAWA GRANT

**OBJET: SUBVENTION POUR LE CLUB DES GARÇONS ET FILLES
D'OTTAWA**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board:

- 1) Approve the annual grant of \$50,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa for 2019, to support its activities with at risk youth.**
- 2) Direct that the grant of \$50,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa be included within the Board's draft estimates annually, beginning in 2020, subject to the condition that the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa submits an annual report to the Board outlining the outcomes of the grant support for the previous year.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa :

- 1) approuve la subvention annuelle de 50 000 \$ destinée au Repaire jeunesse d'Ottawa pour 2019, afin de lui permettre de mener ses activités auprès des jeunes à risque;**
- 2) demande que la subvention de 50 000 \$ pour le Club des garçons et filles d'Ottawa soit incluse dans les prévisions budgétaires de la commission chaque année, à compter de 2020, à la condition que le Club des garçons et filles d'Ottawa présente un rapport annuel à la commission indiquant les résultats de la subvention accordée l'année précédente.**

BACKGROUND

Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

Serving the Ottawa area since 1923, the BGCO is a leader in after-school, weekend and summer programs for children and youth aged 6 to 18 years. Each year, through its seven locations strategically located in vulnerable areas throughout the city, the BGCO offers approximately 4,500 children and youth barrier-free access to a supportive place where they can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. Membership and programs are free.

According to BGCO, after-school and weekend hours are a critical time for youth. That time can represent either an opportunity to learn and grow through quality after-school programs, or be a time of risk to youth's health and safety. Experts agree that after-school programs offer a healthy and positive alternative. They keep kids safe, improve academic achievement and help relieve the stresses on today's working families. They can serve as important intervention strategies for youth. The variety and quality of the BGCO programs are meant to be engaging, accessible for all, and contribute towards the overall development of good citizens and leaders within the community. Success is achieved through the dedication and commitment of quality staff, community partners and volunteers.

The BGCO operates under the following four programming pillars which are comprehensive and encapsulate the overarching goal of social skills development to build strong and productive community members:

1. Education
2. Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyle

3. Leadership and Social Skills

4. Creative Arts

Programming in all four pillars is offered at each of the seven Clubhouses. Under each pillar there is a core program that leads and defines all other programming.

Partnership with Ottawa Police Services Board and Ottawa Police Service

The Ottawa Police Services Board (the Board) and Ottawa Police Service (OPS) have established a long and effective working partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa. In support of this partnership, many OPS members volunteer each year to help carry out BGCO's programs and many members of OPS have served in leadership roles on its Board to help achieve its strategic goals. To assist with its sustainability, the OPS had annually funded the facility operating costs for the Clubhouse at 1463 Prince of Wales Dr., budgeted at \$50,000 within the Service's Facility accounts.

The financial support arrangement grew out of the decision to amalgamate the Police Youth Centre (PYC) with the BGCO in the 2000 era. Until that time the Police Youth Centre (PYC), established in 1994 located at 1463 Prince of Wales Drive, was a stand-alone drop-in and activity centre for neighbourhood youth jointly funded and operated by OPS and a community board. It was an important element in the Debra-Dynes area of the City which needed a positive focal point for police-community interaction, especially with youth. OPS rented the facility from the City for \$1 per year and paid to operate and maintain it. Community fundraising (the Awesome Auction, Ringside for Youth) covered the costs of non-police staff and OPS assigned an officer to lead the Centre.

The Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa (BGCO) and the PYC initiated an amalgamation several years later and the PYC became a BGCO Clubhouse. OPS remained a partner by providing the facility (which the City continued to lease to it for \$1 annually) and by covering the facility operating and maintenance costs of approximately \$50,000 annually.

The maintenance activities were carried out by City staff and these costs were charged to OPS. PYC board members and fundraisers re-directed their efforts in support of BGCO. The amalgamation has proven to be successful.

In response to increasing demand for youth programming in the Debra-Dynes area, BGCO developed an exciting expansion and redevelopment plan for the Prince of Wales Clubhouse. In accordance with its plan, on March 8, 2017, Council approved the sale of 1463 Prince of Wales Drive to the BGCO for \$1.00. BGCO assumed responsibility for facility operating and maintenance costs under this arrangement as the property owner, releasing the OPS of its obligation.

DISCUSSION

As recommended by the Board's Finance and Audit Committee at its meeting on December 2, 2019, the Board is being asked to continue to provide a reoccurring, annual grant of \$50,000 to the BGCO. This can be accomplished by including the grant of \$50,000 in the annual draft budget estimates. This would also eliminate the need for annual approvals of the grant by the Board. The grant could still be revisited as part of the budget process if needed.

The condition of the grant requiring an annual report from the BGCO outlining the outcomes of the grant support would continue.

The Board previously approved a \$50,000 grant to the BGCO in 2017 and 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should the Board approve the stated recommendation, a grant of \$50,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa would be included within the Board's draft estimates annually, beginning in 2020.

The Board previously set aside funds in its 2019 budget to support this year's grant.

CONCLUSION

The OPSB, OPS and the BGCO have a long-standing partnership that results in tangible, positive outcomes for at-risk youth in Ottawa. The Board can continue to support the proactive work of the BGCO through its provision of the reoccurring annual grant.