

Africa Centre

Request to Reallocate Council-approved Funds

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (Africa Centre) request to reallocate \$237,500 of annual funding, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the August 11, 2021, Citizen Services report CS00752, be approved.

Executive Summary

The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (operating as the Africa Centre) is seeking approval to reallocate \$237,500 of annual funding. The funds are currently earmarked for various operational positions which support the Africa Centre; however, the organization's needs have evolved since the funds were approved in 2017. The reallocated funds will support the same number of positions but the duties and focus of the positions will change to address the current operational realities of the organization at this time. No additional funds are being requested.

Report

In 2017, the Africa Centre experienced a series of organizational challenges. The board of directors agreed to work with the City's Office of the City Auditor on a management/governance audit of the organization with the intent to address various governance and membership issues.

In November 2017, City Council approved a new service package for the Africa Centre for \$237,500 per year on an ongoing basis. The approved funding was to fund a facility coordinator, a coordinator position to lead community engagement and communications, and to offset low rental revenue. Administration placed conditions on this new operating funding until the board and executive management staff were stabilized and the organization was able to complete the audit recommendations.

The Africa Centre has refreshed its board of directors and has also been operating under new Executive Management since September 2019. In 2020, the Africa Centre completed all audit recommendations.

With the audit recommendations completed, the Africa Centre submitted a request to reallocate the \$237,500 of ongoing funding as the organization's priorities and

operational needs have shifted (Attachment 1). Administration supports the proposed use of funds as presented by the Africa Centre.

If the request is approved by City Council, Administration will develop an interim funding agreement based upon prorating the 2017 funding from May 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 for a total of \$158,333.36 as agreed upon between Administration and the Africa Centre.

A requirement of the annual funding will be that the Africa Centre report annually to Council. The reporting cycle would be re-established with the Africa Centre’s annual report on all activities presented in fall 2021. Establishing the regular reporting cycle will allow for renewal of the next year’s 2022 funding agreement in January / February 2022.

Budget/Financial Implications

As the funds were previously approved, no additional funding is required. If City Council does not approve the request, Administration would return the funds for City Council to redirect during the supplemental operating budget process.

The Africa Centre currently receives municipal funding support as follows:

- \$232,000 per year of operational funding approved in 2013
- \$150,000 per year Family and Community Support Services program funding for preventative social service programming
- \$237,500 per year as approved in 2017, currently held

Public Engagement

No public engagement was conducted for this report.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome: Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play			
Outcomes	Measures	Results	Targets
Improve community capacities that connect to relevant resources and opportunities.	Number of community leaders receiving coaching support	2021 YTD: 10	2021: 50% increase from previous year
Improve community access to information, education and resources.	Number of people engaged with education and information dissemination	2021 YTD: 100	2021: 50% increase from previous year

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
If recommendation is approved						
Financial	Funding may be insufficient resulting in further request for more investment by the City of Edmonton.	4 - Likely	2 - Moderate	8 - Medium	Work with the Africa Centre to forecast potential funding needs in the future based on current trends.	
If recommendation is not approved						
Customer / Citizens	The Africa Centre will have to reduce its programs and services negatively impacting citizens that utilize the services.	4 - Likely	2 - Moderate	8 - Medium	Partner has demonstrated responsible fund management and will adapt and adjust programs and services accordingly.	

Attachments

1. Africa Centre Request to Reallocate Funds
2. Comparison of 2017 Approved Funds vs. Reallocation Request

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- D. Croft, Acting Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor