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APPENDIX C



COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP  
Social Policy

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**MEMORANDUM**

May 6, 2009

**TO:** Mayor & Council

**CC:** Penny Ballem, City Manager  
David McLellan, General Manager CSG  
Brenda Prosken, Deputy General Manager CSG  
Cameron Gray, Managing Director, Social Development  
Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Policy  
Michelle Vernooy, Social Planner

**FROM:** Mario Lee  
Senior Social Planner

**SUBJECT:** Philippine Women Centre - Appeal of Community Services Grants Recommendations

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Dear Mayor and Council,

This coming Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the meeting of the Council Committee on Services & Budgets, Council will be dealing with a report on the Appeals of the Community Services Grants Recommendations for 2009. There are five organizations that presented their appeals before the deadline of March 4, 2009, and they are: Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS); the Chinese Community Library; the South Vancouver Seniors Network Society; PeerNetBC - Kinex, and; the Hastings North Area Planning Association.

On Monday, May 4, 2009 we were informed that the Philippine Women Centre (PWC) had intended to appeal. The Executive Director of PWC informed us that on March 4, 2009, they had faxed to us a two-page appeal letter. We have no record of having received such a fax, and unfortunately, they did not follow up with a telephone call or a regular mailed letter. However, we are giving them the benefit of the doubt and submitting Social Policy's response to their appeal.

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The PWC has now sent us a copy of their letter (attached to this memo) with the arguments for their appeal. We are submitting Social Policy's response to the appeal, and including the rationale for the original recommendation, of a grant for \$18,572, which was approved by Council on April 7, 2009. A detailed standard response to the appeal is attached to this memo.

The summary of Social Policy's response is that we stand by the original recommendation presented to Council on April 7, 2009. The original grant application presented by PWC on November 28, 2008 requested funding for two positions: support towards the salary of the Executive Director, and; funding for a new Youth Coordinator position. Upon conducting the grant review and considering both the amount of funds available and priorities for funding across the city, it was concluded that the City should continue to provide support for PWC Executive Director's position at the same level than the previous year plus an increase of 2%. The City does provide funding to a number of organizations working with new immigrants, including Filipino youth (i.e. Multicultural Helping House, Immigrant Services Society).

If you have further questions please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Mario Lee  
Senior Social Planner

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## **Philippine Women Centre of BC (#75)**

2009 Request	\$35,000
2008 Grant	\$18,208
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$18,572
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$18,572

### **Program Description (summarized from the grant application)**

The Philippine Women Centre (PWC) of BC provides a range of programs serving the Filipino community in Vancouver. The Executive Director oversees and coordinates programs and the proposed new Youth Coordinator is to target Filipino youth and students, providing capacity building, skills and opportunities, and alliance-building with other groups of vulnerable youth and with community agencies.

### **Social Policy's Initial Response**

Staff recommended \$18,572 which includes a cost of living increase in addition to last year's grant. The recommended grant represents 63% of the executive director's salary, which is the eligible amount for this position.

### **Basis for Reconsideration**

In the letter requesting reconsideration (attached), the PWC states that the basis of their request for reconsideration is that the eligibility criteria have not been properly applied. In the letter, the PWC explains that they requested an additional \$15,000 in funding for 2009 for a new Youth Coordinator position. They describe the rapid increase in the Filipino migrant and immigrant population in Vancouver, issues facing youth, and the increased need to serve and empower Filipino youth to be contributing members of the city.

### **Social Policy Comments**

Social Policy recommends continued support for a portion of the core salary position of the Executive Director of the PWC, with a grant of \$18,572.

Staff agrees that there are growing needs in the Filipino community and that a Youth Coordinator position is eligible. However, within the context of other applications which rated higher in regards to meeting City priorities, staff is unable to recommend new funding toward the Youth Coordinator position at this time.

The approved 2009 CS grants include funding to 20 child- and youth-serving organizations, including several which work with high-risk youth, anti-violence, and capacity building, and including a program specifically for immigrant youth (My Circle) and programs for Filipino youth (Multicultural Helping House).

**Staff Recommend a CS Grant of \$18,572**



**PWC**

PHILIPPINE WOMEN CENTRE OF B.C.

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email: [pwc@kalayaancentre.net](mailto:pwc@kalayaancentre.net), web: <http://kalayaancentre.net/pwcofbc>

Michelle Vernooy  
Social Planner  
Social Development Department  
City of Vancouver

BY FAX: 604-871-6048

Dear Ms. Vernooy,

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 18, 2009 informing us that the Social Policy Division of the Social Development Department is recommending to City Council that a DSS Community Services Grant of \$18,208 be approved for our organization. However, we are requesting the Social Development Department and City Council reconsider its grant recommendation because we believe that the eligibility criteria have not been properly applied.

The PWC requested an additional \$15,000 in funds for the coming year for a new Youth Coordinator position. This position is vital for us to expand on our work with the youth, so they may receive additional services and contribute positively to society in the context of community development within the City of Vancouver.

The rationale for these additional services, and the accompanying increased funds necessary, is based on the well-known fact that the Filipino migrant and immigrant community is growing rapidly in large numbers. According to data released by Statistics Canada last December, the Filipino community is now the number one source for temporary migrants and immigrants combined. The Filipino community increased by 33% from 2001 - 2006, according to Census figures.

There is an increase in need to serve and empower Filipino youth to be contributing members of our city. Many youth who are children of live-in caregivers are marginalized economically and socially. Poverty makes them vulnerable and puts them at long-term risk physically and socially. Many Filipino youth are high-risk for social, economic, and psychological problems not only for themselves but also for the community at large.

Profoundly, in the last year, we experienced the violent death of Deeward Ponte, a 15 year-old Filipino youth killed in Vancouver. Ponte, the son of a former live-in caregiver experienced a

lack of access to social services and difficulty in school because of systemic barriers. Based on community research done by PWC and the Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance, Filipino youth are vulnerable to first becoming victims of street violence and later drawn into anti-social activities. At the same time, those seeking education drop-out (Filipino youth now have the second highest drop-out rate in Vancouver), have inconsistent or little access to education opportunities, and experience ongoing poverty. Also significant are the emotional and psychological problems due to multiple factors, one of the most significant being their often uncomfortable reunification with their mothers, many of whom come to Canada as live-in caregivers and ongoing poverty requiring parents and youth to give up other nurturing activities in order to work. These problems are manifested socially, and their access to social services limited or oftentimes, not culturally appropriate or linguistically compatible. We aim to contribute to these services not readily available to Filipino youth.

Through community development, increased funding will assist us in providing youth with programs for: accessing services while developing learning and community and public participation; capacity building in various areas of their personal, social, and community development; alliance-building with other groups of vulnerable youth; strengthening and bridging positive relationships with government institutions including the Vancouver Police and the Vancouver School Board, thereby providing the skills and opportunities to have their voices heard in appropriate, collaborative, and effective forums.

For these reasons, we believe that our eligibility for this grant has not been properly assessed and we are requesting a reconsideration of the grant amount proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilou Carrillo  
Chairperson  
Philippine Women Centre of BC