

**MARRICKVILLE council**

**SUPPLEMENTARY  
BUSINESS PAPER  
3**

**for**

**COUNCIL  
MEETING  
09/07**

**6.30 PM, MONDAY,  
5 NOVEMBER, 2007**  
Rescheduled from 16 October 2007

*Distributed 2 November, 2007*



***MM 15 - REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER - THE SALVATION ARMY  
CAROLS IN THE PARK  
For Decision***

File Ref: 10315-02

**Councillors**

**Discussion**

I have received a request from the Salvation Army for a fee waiver on their use of Johnson Park in Dulwich Hill for *Carols in the Park* on 9 December 2007. This has been an annual event in this park for many years, and previously the Salvation Army has not been required to pay a fee.

Council's current Fees and Charges Schedule identifies a Major Event category which is triggered by expected attendance of more than 200 people. The Salvation Army have indicated in their application that they expect more than 500 people to attend. This highlights the popularity of this event in the community. It is an event that is enjoyed by people of all ages and across a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

The Salvation Army Dulwich Hill is a local not-for-profit organisation and is requesting the same level of support from Council as is provided to other similar organisations using Council's facilities. There is an anomaly in Council's park hire fees in that there is no discount for local not-for-profit organisations. It is proposed to address this in the 2008/2009 Fees and Charges. The cost of the Major Event fee that is requested to be waived is \$1,650.00 including GST plus costs.

In addition to a fee waiver, the Salvation Army has requested use of the amenities building roof as a stage area for their event for singers. This area currently has picnic tables and benches installed. Use for the event would require this furniture to be removed and reinstalled. Because of works required to modify the furniture and fittings to meet OH&S requirements, and to allow the furniture to be further removed and reinstated at a later date, a cost of \$2,400 has been calculated for use of the amenities building roof as a stage.

I seek Council's support in the provision of financial assistance in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act in meeting the park hire fee of \$1,650, plus the associated costs of \$2,400 and fund this through a budget adjustment.

I urge you to support this request from the Salvation Army. I am sure you all appreciate the community enjoyment and participation that this event generates and would want to ensure that it continues to be a regular event in Johnson Park.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT:**

1. Council give financial assistance of \$4,050, under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, to the Salvation Army, Dulwich Hill as a not-for-profit organisation, for fees and associated costs related to holding their Carols in the Park event in Johnson Park in 2007; and
2. the issue of discount for community groups for festivals and park use be considered as part of the 2008/2009 Budget process, with a Councillor Briefing Paper being prepared on that issue for the first Councillor Conference in February.

Councillor Dimitrios Thanos  
Mayor

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DULWICH HILL FOR CAROLS IN THE PARK  
For Decision**

File Ref: 2652

**General Manager reports:**

**Synopsis**

A Mayoral Minute requests that Council waive the booking fee for use of Johnson Park on Sunday 9 December 2007 for a Salvation Army community event celebrating *Carols in the Park*. In addition, Council is requested to provide funds to remove and reinstall existing furniture on the Johnson Park amenities building to enable the building to be used as a stage. It is recommended that the report be received and noted; Council provide financial assistance to cover the cost of the Major Event fee of \$1,650 as outlined in its current Fees and Charges; Council determine whether it also provides financial assistance in the order of \$2,400 to remove and reinstall permanently fixed furniture on the roof of Johnson Park amenities building; the total value of Council's assistance be subject to a budget adjustment rather than fully expending funds that might otherwise be available for service delivery; and the Salvation Army be required to submit a Development Application for any similar event to be held in 2008, consistent with Council's policy requirements.

**Background**

The Community Grants Policy, which was endorsed by Council at the Community Services Committee meeting of 13 September 2005 (Item CD 20, 08/05) represents Council's requirement to treat all donations for cash or in kind support under a coherent policy framework. This includes requests under (Part 1) the Community Grants Program, (Part 2) the Contingency Program and (Part 3) Notices of Motion.

Organisations requesting consideration under the Policy are required to apply in writing, outlining the need or issue and may, for Parts 2 and 3, request funding up to \$1,000. These requests are considered by a panel comprising the Chairperson of the Community Services Committee, the General Manager and the Director of Community Services. A report is then submitted for Council's consideration.

In 2006/2007, \$5,000 is set aside for cash or in kind contributions that are submitted to Council as applications under Part 3, Notices of Motion.

**Discussion**

The Salvation Army is a large charitable organisation responsible for a range of services and programs assisting people 'from the cradle to the grave' across Australia. In addition to the popular Red Shield Appeal, they also receive government grants, bequests and donations from a range of sources.

When the Salvation Army's original request to conduct *Carols in the Park* on 9 December 2007 was received by Council, sufficient time for approval of a Development Application was no longer available. An alternative request therefore includes a proposal to remove and reinstall permanently fixed picnic tables and benches on the amenities building in Johnson Park, with costs estimated at

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\$2,400 to be covered by Council. The organization is also requesting that Council waive the Major Events fee of \$1,650 for the use of Johnson Park, which was triggered by the significant increase in expected attendance at the event.

The success of this annual event has taken it beyond its original parameters. Therefore, there are recurrent implications that need to be addressed over the coming months by the applicant through Council's Development Application process, and by Council in reviewing concessional fees for Parks and Reserves.

In lieu of these arrangements, the request can only be considered within the context of the Community Grants Policy. The total value of this request is \$4,050, which is far in excess of the \$1,000 maximum allocation under the Community Grants Policy. It is proposed the total value of Council's financial assistance be made available by way of a budget adjustment from general revenue and that the small balance in the Community Grants Program, Part 3, be preserved for other local initiatives.

To assist Council in its decision making, an assessment against the Eligibility Criteria under the Community Grants Policy is contained within the ATTACHED schedule. (ATTACHMENT 1).

**Conclusion**

The Community Grants Policy sets a \$1,000 limit on donations of cash or in kind support, however, the total value of the Salvation Army's request amounts to \$4,050. It is proposed that Council consider the request in the context of increasing expectations of support over time and a proposed requirement for the Salvation Army to submit a Development Application for any similar event in 2008.

**Director, Corporate Services Reports:**

A budget adjustment can be done in the next budget review.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT:**

1. the report be received and noted;
2. Council provide financial assistance to cover the cost of the Major Event fee of \$1,650 as outlined in its current Fees and Charges;
3. Council determine whether it also provides financial assistance in the order of \$2,400 to remove and reinstall permanently fixed furniture on the roof of Johnson Park amenities building;
4. the total value of Council's assistance be met through provision of a budget adjustment; and
5. the Salvation Army be required to submit a Development Application for any similar event to be held in 2008, consistent with Council's policy requirements.

*Council Meeting - 10/07 - 6 November, 2007*

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**ATTACHMENT 1: Total 1 page**

Summary of Eligibility Criteria for Organisations Requests Donations Under the Community Grants Policy, Part 3, Notices Of Motion.

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**SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ORGANISATIONS REQUESTIONS DONATIONS UNDER THE COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY, PART 3, NOTICES OF MOTION.**

Eligibility Criteria	Salvation Army
Applicants must be non-profit, community based organisation who provide services and programs that benefit residents in the Marrickville Local Government Area.	✓
Evidence must be provided that the organisation is appropriately incorporated, community-based and not conducted for private gain.	✓
The application must be for a specific project and must not be considered as a permanent source of future funding. Grants will not be given to cover a shortfall in the applicant organisation's general running costs.	✓
Grants will not be provided to political parties.	✓
The organisation must demonstrate a capacity to deliver community services or programs.	✓
The project will contribute to the achievement of the <i>Belonging in Marrickville</i> Social Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeting an appropriate category;</li> <li>▪ Addressing a key priority under Council's Social Plan (current at the time of the application).</li> </ul>	In part
The application must clearly define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The service or program to be delivered;</li> <li>▪ How it will be delivered and the resources required to deliver it;</li> <li>▪ Results to be achieved for the residents of Marrickville.</li> </ul>	✓
The project must not have recurrent funding implications.	X
Each application will be considered in light of other contributions made by Council to the organisation, for example subsidised usage of Council facilities, receipt of other Council grants and resources.	✓
Priority when assessed against the merit of other applications.	X