

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.12

MEETING DATE: March 19, 2024

**STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET**

SUBJECT: Community Development Initiatives DATE: March 6, 2024  
Funding (Peer Employment Initiative)

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety & Social Development PREPARED BY: Holly Ferris

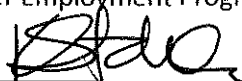
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**1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Last year, the BIA on behalf of Ruth and Naomi’s Mission requested Community Development Initiative funding to support the Downtown Cleanup – Peer Employment Program. Over the past two years there has been significant effort expended to secure ongoing funding for the program. Last year the partnership was able to secure funding from the provincial government, and they are now working with Work BC on an application to create an official job training program which will help to sustain the program in the longer term. The initiative aims to support people experiencing homelessness gain part time employment, while addressing concerns of increased refuse in the downtown core. These funds provide opportunity for clean up in the area a few hours a day on the weekends, and necessary equipment for the project. The project includes a coordinator who oversees the clean-up crew. The request is for \$5555/month for the next nine months, totaling \$49,995 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**2. RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve the funding of \$49,995 under the Community Development Initiatives Funding Policy to Ruth & Naomi’s Mission Downtown Cleanup Peer Employment Program

  
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Karen Stanton, Director  
Public Safety & Social Development

**3. FINANCE COMMENTS:**

Funding is available within the overall Financial Plan to facilitate this expenditure

  
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Glen Savard, Director of Finance

**4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:**

Supports recommendation.

  
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David Blain, CAO