

**COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM – BUDGET EXPANSION**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Services and the Director of Budgeting and Financial Planning, the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks, and the Director of Parks recommends:

That Council approve an additional \$35,000 for the 2003 Communities in Bloom program.

**Purpose**

To seek Council approval for additional funding to support the 2003 Communities in Bloom initiatives. This money was not provided for in the 2003 Operating Budget.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The City of Vaughan is currently involved in the second year of the Communities in Bloom program. In 2002 Council approved \$25,000 in the Operating Budget for this program. In addition, \$5,000 was taken from each of the 5 ward streetscaping budgets, for a total of \$50,000.

In preparation of the 2003 budget submission, staff presented a budget line of \$27,800 for the Communities in Bloom program. This figure represented what staff believed would be required for the administration of the 2003 program in addition to the \$5,000 per ward contribution from the Capital Budget. This money was not provided for in the 2003 Operating Budget. The Capital Budget for streetscaping did not get approved so there were no additional monies available for the program.

In order for the Communities in Bloom program to meet the expected results, it was determined that an additional \$35,000 would be required.

**Conclusion**

The additional funding is required to successfully complete the Communities in Bloom program; in addition, the committee is actively seeking more involvement from the community and local businesses to support the newest initiatives for the 2003 program.

**Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas  
Commissioner of Community Services