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May 11, 2016

Executive Committee of Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC, Canada
V5G 1M2

Attention: Chair and Members of the Committee

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Recreational Sports Grant Application
Provincial "B" Cup Tournament – July 7 through 10, 2016, Penticton
Burnaby Girls Soccer Club "U15 Blaze"**

My name is Maria Burtini. I am the manager for my daughter's soccer team, U15 Blaze, with the Burnaby Girls Soccer Club.

I am writing to the Executive Committee of Council to request grant funding of \$1,000, under the General Policy and Guidelines, for help with travel-related expenses that will be incurred by our girls to attend the Provincial "B" Cup Tournament in Penticton, British Columbia, July 7 through 10, 2016.

Our team comprises:

Coach: Jennifer Morrison **(lives in Vancouver and is a teacher at Burnaby Mountain Secondary)**

Assistant Coach: Arainn Atkinson **(lives in Vancouver and works in Vancouver, but grew up in Burnaby and played for Burnaby Girls Soccer Club)**

Team Members:

Alessia Manetta **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Angela Reis **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Bethany Lim **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Brigita Cecic **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Cristina Burtini **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Cristina Figueroa **(lives in New Westminster and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Elyse Wong **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Georgia Cheung **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**
Laura Powell **(lives and goes to school in Burnaby)**

Margot McCallion (lives and goes to school in Vancouver)
Nicole Kuhn (lives and goes to school in Burnaby)
Paige Heaslip (lives in Vancouver and goes to school in Burnaby)
Samantha Loutet (lives and goes to school in Burnaby)
Sophia Stivanakis (recently moved to Burnaby and goes to school in New Westminster)
Stephanie Ferriera Kay (lives and goes to school in Vancouver)
Thalia Hernandez-Depaoli (lives and goes to school in Burnaby)



This team is a group of 17 wonderful, energetic, vibrant, young ladies, some who have played soccer together since U6, and most of whom have played together since U11. It has been a pleasure to watch these girls grow into the young ladies they are today.

Let me explain to you their journey to get to the Provincial "B" Cup.

This soccer season has been a very difficult season. While this team carries a roster of 17 girls, the team has suffered numerous injuries, concussions, sprained ankles, strained/sprained knees and various other ailments throughout the year. This fact never stopped our girls from competing, sometimes with only 9 players and sometimes while sick. This is a team that just doesn't give up!

Their first game in the Coastal Cup was against the RGSC U15 Selects on April 3, 2016. Our girls won 3-0.

Their second game was against the PMO U15 Xtreme on April 10, 2016. Both teams battled hard and girls were injured. Our girls won 3-0.

Their third game was against Powell River U15 team on April 17, 2016. Again, due to injuries from the game the week before, our team was down a number of players, the remaining girls still fought valiantly. Unfortunately, our girls lost to Powell River 2-0.

While our girls were disappointed their journey had ended, they were proud of themselves to have made it that far.

Later that evening, we were contacted by the coach for the LUSA U15 Langley Couture team, telling us that our teams would get to play each other for the final spot to go to the Provincials.

On Sunday, May 1, 2016, the BGSC U15 Blaze played the LUSA U15 Langley Couture team for that final spot. It was a very exciting game to watch. Both teams battled hard. It was 1-0 for Langley at the end of the first half. In the second half, our girls battled back to tie the game. Both teams continued to battle back and forth and regular time ended with a 2-2 tie. The game went into double overtime, each team scored in overtime, and then into shoot out. Our girls won in shoot out.

Our families will be travelling over 400 kilometers to get to the tournament. This past week was filled with many challenges, trying to locate accommodations for the team, as there are other events happening in Penticton the same weekend, including the Grand Fondo (Penticton) and the Centre of Gravity (Kelowna), and keeping in mind each families' budget. We are all scattered throughout the region, at various accommodations in and out of Penticton, and there will be considerable driving for some families to and from all the games.

These girls have worked very hard to get here, and are very proud and excited to be moving forward to represent the City of Burnaby, Burnaby Girls Soccer Club, and Burnaby Soccer District at the Provincial B Cup Tournament in Penticton.

We kindly request the Council help us make this journey most memorable for these girls. The memories, friendships and bonds from this trip will be carried with each girl for a lifetime.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if you need any additional information that may influence your decision to approve the funding of \$1,000 to support our girls.

Sincerely,



Maria Burtini,
Manager, U15 Blaze