
October 4, 2016

Burnaby City Hall
Executive Committee of Council
c/o Administrative Officer I,
Executive Committee Council (grants),
Clerk's Department
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Re: Request to appear before the Burnaby Executive Committee.

Dear Burnaby City Council,

On behalf of all our Big Sisters, Little Sisters, Board of Directors and staff we wish to thank you for your continued and generous support of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland's (BCLM) one-to-one mentoring programs for Burnaby girls. For the past 15 years the City of Burnaby has helped fund over 23 Burnaby girls with annual one to one mentorship. Thanks to your sustaining support you have helped create a legacy of positive empowerment for many young girls from Burnaby.

Big Sisters BCLM facilitates mentoring relationships that champion a girl's potential. Big Sisters BCLM is a volunteer-based organization aimed at prevention and intervention, as research shows that a supportive relationship with a caring adult is a major factor in helping children overcome challenges in their lives.

Each time Big Sisters BCLM pairs a young girl with a role model, we start something incredible: a one-to-one relationship built on trust and friendship that can blossom into a future of unlimited potential. At a time in their lives when even small choices can change the course of their future, having a Big Sister can help at-risk girls avoid a life riddled with low self-esteem, trauma, bullying, substance abuse and poverty.

I would be thrilled to be given the opportunity to speak to the Executive Committee at their October 20th meeting about the positive impacts of our mentoring programs and how mentorship empowers girls to reach their full potential. Burnaby continues to be an area where our mentoring programs are in high demand, we currently have 18 girls waiting to be matched with a supportive mentor.

I would also like to address the committee's questions about our operational budget and what support we receive from other municipalities, as well as, explain the annual cost of a mentoring match.

Witnessing the transformation of a child into a confident, concerned and motivated young person is truly a remarkable thing to behold. I look forward to sharing with you the positive impact Big Sisters has on the community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request to appear before the Burnaby Executive Committee.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director
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