

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2019 LOCAL HERO AWARD NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.
2. THAT Council approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the 2021 Boards, Committees and Commissions' budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2021 Local Hero Award Program.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council submitted the attached report to the Closed meeting of Council held on 2019 June 24, recommending individuals for receipt of the 2019 Local Hero Awards. At the Closed meeting, Council received and adopted the report containing this year's Local Hero nominees.

This report is provided for public information, and is seeking Council's authorization of expenditures in the amount of \$3,000 from the 2021 Boards, Committees and Commissions' budget for the 2021 Local Hero Award Program printing and advertising costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Mayor M. Hurley
Vice Chair

Copied to:	City Manager Director Corporate Services Director Finance Director Planning and Building Director Public Safety and Community Services OIC, RCMP Chief Librarian Citizen Support Services Administrator
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

DATE: 2019 May 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1450 01
Reference: Local Heroes

SUBJECT: 2019 LOCAL HERO AWARD NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend individuals for receipt of 2019 Local Hero Awards and to seek funding approval for the 2021 Local Hero Award Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to:
 - a. approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2019:
 - i. Sameer Aslami
 - ii. Marianne Buesink
 - iii. Mary Gates
 - iv. Kathy Richardson
 - v. Donna Short
 - vi. Dianne Stevenson
 - b. invite approved nominees to the 2019 October 28 Council meeting to be presented with their Local Hero Award certificates of recognition.
2. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve the awarding of Local Hero Awards every two years instead of annually, as described in Section 5.0 of this report; and
3. **THAT** The Committee request Council to approve expenditures of up to \$3000 from the 2021 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2021 Local Hero Award Program.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, Burnaby has identified and recognized Local Heroes, individuals who make outstanding contributions to community well-being in Burnaby. To date, the City has recognized 264 Local Heroes, individuals who represent diverse interests and backgrounds and have contributed to the community in a variety of ways (see list of past recipients in *Appendix 1, attached*).

2.0 POLICY SECTION

This report aligns with the following goal and sub-goal of the Corporate Strategic Plan:

- A Healthy Community
 - Community Involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community

3.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2019 Local Hero Awards through advertisements in the local newspaper, the City website, the City's social media channels (e.g., City Facebook page and Twitter account), and community networks (e.g. Burnaby Interagency Council). Associated posters and nomination forms were also circulated through all City venues (e.g., City Hall, recreation centres, libraries, community police offices), and through partners such as the Burnaby School District. The call for Local Hero nominations opened in 2019 March and the deadline for submitting nominations was 2019 May 10. As per a long-established practice, staff reviewed the submitted nominations and developed a shortlist of nominees who met the selection criteria for Committee consideration.

As stated in the eligibility guidelines established by the Social Planning Committee in 2010, a maximum of 12 Local Heroes may be selected in a given year. The awards are intended to recognize individuals who have made contributions to community well-being in Burnaby through volunteer activities for at least five years and in a minimum of two different activities. Local Hero Awards are given on a one-time basis only.

After reviewing the submissions in accordance with the established criteria, the following nominees are proposed for 2019 Local Hero Awards.

Sameer Aslami

Since 2010, Sameer has been an active volunteer in the Edmonds neighbourhood engaging with residents of all ages. He has assisted the City with many major community events such as Canada Day, Festival of Lights, Breakfast with Santa and has also been a regular volunteer at Edmonds Community Centre for 55+. His spirit of volunteerism started early, at age 9, when he volunteered his time by organizing supplies for children's programs and events at Edmonds Community Centre and helping out in the games room. As Sameer's nominators note: *"Sameer Aslami is a very deserving Burnaby resident who has become an involved citizen in southeast Burnaby. Positive attitude is one of the first characteristics that comes to mind when thinking of Sameer and it has been truly infectious among those volunteering along-side him. Sameer's strong sense of community leads me to believe he will continue to be one of Burnaby's outstanding citizens."*

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Marianne Buesink

Marianne has shown a commitment to helping vulnerable Burnaby residents throughout her volunteer work within her faith community at Westminster Bible Chapel. In 2010, she helped to establish the Extreme Weather Response Shelter at Westminster Bible Chapel in Burnaby. Since that time, she has continued to volunteer each year as a member of the Extreme Weather Response Committee, which develops the annual Extreme Weather Plan for Burnaby. She also annually recruits and trains volunteers and organizes help for the provision of meals and supplies to those using the shelter each winter. Marianne is on site to open the church for the EWR shelter every evening it is open. She also plans the meals and assists with shopping for needed supplies. An indication of her commitment is that she has provided meals at the shelter for 363 nights between 2010 and 2019 and contributed nearly 200 volunteer hours during the 2018/2019 shelter season alone. Marianne also volunteers through her faith community every Tuesday to make quilts and assist others with their projects for donating to various agencies that support those in need, including Liberty Place in Burnaby. She also volunteers to deliver the finished products to the agencies and assists with two luncheons annually put on for the quilters. As Marianne's nominators note: *"Marianne is an extraordinary individual, giving a significant amount of her personal time as a volunteer to assist others that are vulnerable and homeless. She is caring, humble ... well respected and quietly a true hero to many."*

Mary Gates

Mary is a long standing volunteer in Burnaby and committed to improving public safety. She has volunteered with the Burnaby Citizens Crime Watch since 1990, assisting with events such as Hats Off Day, conducting foot and vehicular patrols directed at crime hot spots, and assists in the recruitment of new members. She has also volunteered at the RCMP Community Policing Office helping out with the Burnaby RCMP inaugural Open House, foot patrols throughout Burnaby and assisting at community events. Since 2011, she has been a Co-Captain of the Burnaby RCMP Block Watch Program in her neighbourhood, observing and reporting incidents to police as well as communicating crime prevention tips and information to neighbours and program participants. As Mary's nominator's state: *"Mary is constantly trying to make the world a better place. Dedication, flexibility, and a keen eye to detail are all hallmarks of this outstanding individual. Burnaby is without a doubt a safer and stronger community because of her decades of service."*

Kathy Richardson

Kathy has been an active volunteer with her faith community at Deer Lake United Church for over 30 years. She is a board member and participates on the Christian Education Committee, Worship Committee and Pastoral Care Committee. Through these committees she helps with supporting members of the congregation who have lost a loved one or fallen ill, organizing services, and faith education opportunities for the congregation. Kathy has also been an active volunteer at Burnaby Association for the South East Side (BASES) where she has been a Board Member for the past eight years. For the past six years, she has served in the role of Secretary of the Board. She has volunteered her time with the Administrative Committee for the thrift store

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ensuring that all store supplies are kept in stock, co-organizing volunteer appreciation events and other administrative tasks such as those related to human resources. Kathy is also an integral part of the Book Giveaway event held every June for the past 13 years. Kathy's nominators say: *"Kathy is a real example of a local hero. Kathy has a heart of gold and cares for those around her. When Kathy commits to a project or issue, her focus is so strong that others join in and the dream becomes reality."*

Donna Short

Donna Short has been volunteering with both Citizen Support Services and PADS for over ten years. Donna volunteers weekly as a Shop by Phone Shopper to purchase groceries to be delivered to isolated seniors throughout Burnaby. Donna works closely with the seniors she is purchasing for to ensure that their orders are correct and alerts them when a similar product is available for a lower price. Donna started her time with PADS many years ago in the Early Puppy Education program by training very young puppies in preparation for becoming service dogs. She continues to provide a temporary home for dogs going through the PADS training program and ensures that they attend all training sessions. These dogs stay with her up to 100 days until they are matched with a person who needs the dog's service. As Donna's nominator's note: *"I cannot say enough about Donna's kindness, consideration and dedication to being dedicated in our community and therefore I truly feel she would make an excellent candidate for a Local Hero award."*

Dianne Stevenson

Dianne has been a loyal volunteer at BASES thrift store for over five years. She serves as a cashier at the store as well as assisting with unpacking, sorting and organizing book donations. Dianne has also led fundraising activities for the thrift store in addition to her in-store volunteer shifts. Dianne is also a member of the Fraser Valley Quilters' Guild and organizes charity events and makes quilts for various organizations such as Aunt Leah's House, for premature babies at BC Women's Hospital, and the Cops for Cancer Program. Dianne's nominators say: *"Dianne puts her heart and soul into her passions - quilting for others and the thrift store. Everyone who knows her finds her smile and commitment infectious."*

4.0 ASSESSMENT

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing six nominees satisfy the guidelines for Burnaby's Local Hero Award program and demonstrate the exemplary characteristics required of a local hero. In their unique ways, they have all made noteworthy contributions to community well-being and merit recognition as Local Heroes.

5.0 PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGE

Due to the limited number of Local Hero nominations received in recent years despite increasing advertising efforts, staff propose that Local Hero award nominations be held every two years in an effort to increase the number of awardees being celebrated at each awards ceremony. Subject to Council approval of the proposed schedule change, a funding allocation of \$3,000 for the next

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Local Hero Awards nomination period in 2021 is being requested to cover advertising and printing costs.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2019 marks the 23rd year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes. As in previous years, the quality of submissions and calibre of nominees is high. In an effort to maintain the high level and increase the number of nominations received each nomination period, it is proposed that the next Local Hero Award call for nominations will be in 2021. The Local Hero Award program is an effective vehicle for recognizing citizens who have made noteworthy contributions to community well-being in Burnaby over the years. A key strength of the program is that the nominations are received from the community.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve the nomination of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2019:

- i. Sameer Aslami
- ii. Marianne Buesink
- iii. Mary Gates
- iv. Kathy Richardson
- v. Donna Short
- vi. Dianne Stevenson

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to invite approved nominees to the 2019 October 28 Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition. After the awards presentation, staff will celebrate the Local Hero Award recipients on the City's website.

Finally, as in previous years, it will be recommended that Council approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2021 Local Hero Award program.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendations of this report, and the report was advanced to Closed Council for adoption. The successful nominees will be notified and the awards presented at the 2019 October 28 Council meeting.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

CS:sa

Attachment

cc: City Manager
City Clerk
Director Corporate Services

APPENDIX 1
LOCAL HEROES 1997 - 2018

1997 (7)

Barbara Brady
Don Brown
Beth Chobotuck
Don Copan
Edie Fisher
Maddie Greenlay
Barb Peabody

1998 (9)

Ray Abernethy
Allison Dalglish
Bharti Envik
Lilac Jung
Faye Ku
Ruth Loland
Anita Loy
Melody Marbach
Sharon Mudrakoff

1999 (14)

Georgie Cole
Marjorie Deschner
Gloria Inglis
Effie Kennedy
Ema Kozak
Marion Krause
Nick Kvenich
George McLean
Scott Robertson
Ken Ryan
Rudy Spense
Don Steen
Barbara Stewart
Tim Zimich

2000 (11)

Mark Angelo
Lillian Chalmers
Glenice English
Philip Henderson
Grace Jo
Les Lee Lowe
Barbara Lussier
Tony Mauro
Doreen Player
Joyce Rosterson
Carol Roycroft

2001 (11)

Roxy Abernethy
Beverly Adams
Tracie Buzza
Dennis Baker
Joane Came
Paulene Hall
Christina Lupien
Judi Marshall
Louise Towell
Sandy Twinn
Marguerite Wallace

2002 (19)

Elizabeth Briemberg
Steve Cairns
Millie Canessa
Kenney Chan
Jack Cyr
Harvey Elder
Richard Harvey
Ethel Hawthorne
Reg Hawthorne
Vivian Henderson
Gail Klarer
Kenny So Ying Leung
Nick Lutz
Eleanor MacQueen
Merv Magus
Regina Ogmundson
Hugh Robertson
Norm Sandercock
Bernice Wiseman

2003 (20)

Jeannette Aadland
Keith Beedie
Gladys Brundrett
Parvin Chami
Gillian Chan
Paul Colvin
John DeForest
Jeanne Fike
Maureen Francois
Ruth Gautschi
Lina Hu
Pak Wing Kan
Carol La Croix
Jay McGarva
Rajinder Pandher
Eric Seto
Norman Song
Margaret Van Soest
Greg van Euw
Deb Yaschuk

2004 (20)

Joy Ayers
Hakam Bhaloo
Olive Fera
Gino Fera
Sandra Fesiuk
Gillian Gallson
Lois Godfrey
Helen Hamilton
Joanna Illerbrun
Michelle Leong
John McQuade
Shirely Mortimer
Kevan Oxley
Lou Ryan
Harminder Saghera
Liza Shoda
Carolyn Sinclair
Tom Stewart
Lisa Thomson
Lisa Wong

2005 (18)

Marilyn Cooper
Linda Corrin
Bill Corson
Frances Dickson
Diane Dobie
Begum Ebrahim
Kate Evans
Theresa Johannsen
Patrick Johnson
Allan Joyce
Vicki Kreuzer
Irene Kyle
Larry Lynn
Fergus McCann
Pearl Price
Josie Romero
Gloria Tom Wing Staudt
Gail Yip

2006 (19)

Amanda van Aggelen
Pat Beaucamp
Delia Benig
Ardell Louise Brophy-Fitzpatrick
Alia Chatur
Bonnie Davies
Liz Dill
Doreen George
Rhodora Horgan
Gerry Juzenas
Margaret Koster
Jim Lawrence

Anna Rowden
Tina Schipper
Hazel Simnett
Sasha Tewari
Ryan Brandlmayr
Paul Legge
Cham Toor

2007 (20)

Jennifer Atchison
Pushpa Cheema
Donna Dawson
Eman Elmasri
Barbara (Barb) Harris
Gregg Harris
Jon Hernandez
Mary Hernandez
Mary Horton
Rainy Kent
Rehman Lalji
Aly Lalji
Elizabeth (Liz) McEwan
Wanda Mulholland
Susan Papadionissiou
Patrice Pratt
John Speckman
Pak-Kwan Tam
Chiu-Lin Tam
Margaret Widmer

2008 (19)

Grace Mui
Stephanie Jaeger
John Johnston
Rosemary Meech
Norman Roberts
Gloria Kravac
Laurie Sheehan
Myrtle Linden
Diane Gillis
Anne Baker
Irene Harvalias
Margaret (Peggy) McClean
Nelly Noort
Ernie Bodie
Bob (Robert) Khun
Frankie Cena
Sam K. Naicker
Ken Best
Shayma Akhi

2009 (13)

Stella Castillo
Merrilyn Cook
Sidney Cumbers

Keanna Driedger
Sharon Freeman
Fatehali Jetha
Jack Kuyer
Tammy Ozero
Wanley Poh
Deepak Prasad
Wendell Ratcliffe
Mohammed I. Shamsi
Millie Wylie

2010 (10)

Jonathan Van Aggelen
Ray Allen
Elsie Dean
David Gates
Shirley Hill
Darlene James
Carole Kaye
Kathy Tietjen
Tony Tsang
Violet Zaytsoff

2011 (7)

Darlene Gering
Stephen Hughes
Vicky Ma
Raymond McKay
Jim McQueen
Sonia Purewal
Nellie Wong

2012 (8)

Karen Corcoran
Thea Juett
Maria Motta
Vivian Pinter
Michael Raynor
Linda Saunders
Tanaya Shaw
Marilena (Marilyn) Soligo

2013 (8)

Verna Adamson
Georgette Leduc
Dr. Carol Matusicky
Gulshan Megji
Verlma Pallen
Larry Smith
Ken Tunnicliffe
Melanie Walkus

2014 (10)

Farida Bano Ali
Flavia Crema
Ernest Maitland
Ceilidh Millar
Teresa Morton
Susan Nugent
Carol Rush
Arlene Sawchuck
Yun-Ik Schallert
Peggy Woodruff

2015 (8)

George Doering
Janice Froese
Aliya Jiwa
Maureen Kirk
Lindy McQueen
Heather Podrow
Clare Stegen
Tony Wong

2016 (4)

Khalid Boudreau
Hazel Caley
Brenda Felker
Annette Vowles

2017 (6)

Tazul Ali
Joe Gallo
Giovanna Lore
Delmar Rens
Daniella Revitt
Bernie Richter

2018 (3)

Susan Anthony
Rosemary Cooke
Jane Lee