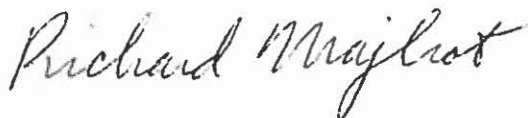


City of Toronto
Community Development and Recreation Committee

Thursday, May 22, 2014

CD29.8 Authority to Dispose of End-of-Life, Surplus Fire Fighting Equipment

- I am here today to speak in support of Agenda Item No. CD29.8 – the Authority to Dispose of End-of-Life Surplus Fire Fighting Equipment.
- It has been done before.
- In August, 2010, Council granted authority to donate sixty (60) bunker suits and helmets, forty (40) pairs of fire-fighting boots, and six (6) medical equipment bags to the Municipality of Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- Bulgaria is a developing country that is part of the European Union. Plovdiv is a major city that is 8,000 years old.
- Fire Services in Plovdiv have trained staff, but the only personal protective equipment fire fighters have is the donation by the City in 2010.
- I have provided pictures of Bulgaria's antiquated fire-fighting equipment.
- Sixty (60) bunker suits and helmets and forty (40) pairs of boots were distributed amongst 400 fire fighters and 13 fire stations. They are extremely grateful and would appreciate another donation.
- Plovdiv, Bulgaria was responsible for all costs and liabilities associated with the donation. Therefore, the City will not incur costs to dispose of the equipment.
- The City's surplus protective personal fire-fighting equipment, while it no longer is suitable for service in North America, can be extremely useful for fire fighters in Bulgaria and elsewhere.
- I urge the Committee to approve the recommendations presented to you today.



Richard Majkot



Tracking Status

- City Council adopted this item on August 25, 2010 with amendments.
- This item was considered by Executive Committee on August 16, 2010 and was adopted with amendments. It will be considered by City Council on August 25, 2010.

City Council consideration on August 25, 2010

EX46.45	ACTION	Amended		Ward: All
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Toronto Fire Services (TFS) 2010 Capital Project to Replace Firefighter Bunker Suits

City Council Decision

City Council on August 25, 26 and 27, 2010, adopted the following:

1. City Council approve the creation of an in-year Capital project with Fire Services for the acquisition of Bunker Suits in the estimated amount of \$5.0 million with offsetting funding from the Capital Financing Reserve, which will be repaid by contributions from Fire's Operating budget over a five-year period.
2. City Council direct that future required acquisitions of Bunker Suits be included as part of Fire Services' submission for the 2011 to 2020 Capital Plan.
3. City Council direct that a funding strategy be developed and reviewed as part of the 2011 Budget Process that would include the viability of annual operating budget contributions from Fire Services to the Vehicle Reserve - Fire Equipment to ensure sufficient funds are available for the ongoing replacement of Bunker Suits.
4. City Council grant authority to the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, to donate sixty (60) bunker suits and helmets, forty (40) pairs of fire fighting boots and six (6) medical equipment storage bags that do not meet the current required standards in North America, have no resale value and would normally be discarded, to the Municipality of Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
5. City Council grant authority to City officials to execute indemnity and waiver agreements with the appropriate officials receiving the donated items, such agreements to be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Background Information (Committee)

Toronto Fire Services (TFS) 2010 Capital Project to Replace Firefighter Bunker Suits
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-32928.pdf>)

Background Information (City Council)



Municipality of Plovdiv Western Region

BULGARIA, 4001 PLOVDIV, VECHERNICA 1 A Str.
tel.: +359 32 604 818, 604 810, fax: +359 32 642 019, e-mail: zapaden@plovdiv.bg

To: David Miller, Mayor
Joe Pennachetti, City
Manager William Stewart,
Fire Chief City of Toronto 100
Queen St. W. Toronto, ON,
Canada M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs;

Re: Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region Needs

As the Mayor of the Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region, I enjoyed meeting with Richard Majkot, who was vacationing in Bulgaria. We had a very interesting discussion and exchange of information about our Municipalities, both in Bulgaria and in Canada.

Plovdiv, is an ancient Bulgarian City that is over 8000 years old with much history. Over that time, Plovdiv has evolved with much success in improving the living conditions for our citizens.

As a Municipality, our goal is to continue to improve those living conditions for our citizens. We want to offer as high a quality of health care, protection, social and administrative services as possible.

Unfortunately, our Municipality has acquired a poor inheritance of resources since the time of socialism. While that is improving with a new national democratic government, many aspects of our services to our citizens remain underdeveloped.

For instance, our fire-fighting equipment is physically dangerous to our fire fighters and extremely outdated. The personal protective equipment is insufficient and often results in injuries to them. Our limited number of Fire Trucks are ancient (1950's vintage), break down, and often malfunction while working to extinguish a fire. That dramatically reduces the reliability and effectiveness of the work our fire fighters do to save lives and properties.

We are also lacking in Ambulances.

During my meeting and conversation with Mr. Majkot, I became aware of the fact that Municipalities such as Toronto declare surplus vehicles, such as Fire Trucks and Ambulances, that have reached the end of their life cycle for your Municipality but may still be operational.

Mayor Miller, Mr. Pennachetti, and Chief Stewart, I ask you to please consider as the Municipality of the City of Toronto, the possibility of donating without cost, surplus vehicles such as Fire Trucks and Ambulances as well as any surplus equipment you may have to our Municipality, the Municipality of Plovdiv - Western Region. We will pay for any costs associated with packing and transporting them from Canada to Bulgaria.

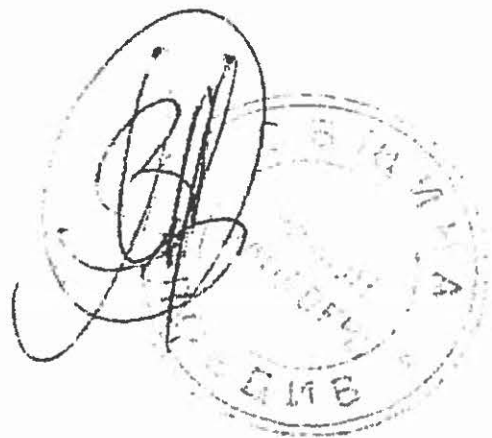
Following my conversation and meeting with Mr. Majkot, in the spirit of friendship and cooperation which I cherish, I remain optimist that the City of Toronto will assist the citizens of our Municipality.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and remain,

Yours sincerely;

ZDRAVKO DIMITROV

Mayor – Municipality of Plovdiv, Western Region



Cc Richard Majkot
City of Toronto



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Governor of Plovdiv District

February 7, 2012

William Stewart
Fire Chief General Manager
Toronto Fire Services
City of Toronto
4330 Dufferin Street
Toronto, ON Canada
M3H 5R9

Dear Chief Stewart,

Re: Natural Disaster in Bulgaria

Regrettably, we have never had the opportunity to meet. In spite of that, Bulgaria and I consider you to be a friend. As such, I am taking the liberty of writing to you as a friend. Our friendship was born out of our need to equip the firefighters of Plovdiv and your assistance in donating firefighting equipment for our firefighters (suits, boots and helmets), and for that we are extremely grateful.

This noble gesture is not forgotten by the Citizens of Plovdiv, our firefighters, and Fire Officials throughout the Region of Plovdiv.

The fire equipment was divided by Fire Commissioner Rumen Dimchev to all fire stations in our area. Words can't describe how much he and his firefighters appreciate the donation made by you and the City of Toronto. Fire Commissioner Dimchev has 400 firefighters and 13 Fire Stations.

Chief Stewart, I want to advise you of the dramatic weather conditions that are affecting our Country. Since the second half of January we have had many record snowfalls followed by extremely low temperatures. Plovdiv measured temperatures of -26 degrees Celsius. In other parts of Bulgaria, all time record low temperatures of -32 degrees Celsius were recorded.

Over the past four days the temperatures became higher. In many places there is a heavy 24-hour rain that melts the snow. That has resulted in a "Natural Disaster" in Bulgaria. We have 3 emergency alert levels - yellow, orange, and red.

I have just declared "Red" in the Region of Plovdiv, the highest emergency level code in Europe.

Dams have broken and water has flooded several villages. Villages have been destroyed by water sweeping them away. There are many human casualties. Whatever limited Emergency Services we have are mobilized. The Army, the Air Force with helicopters, heavy chain machines, and all services that are relevant in emergency situations are assisting in this very serious situation.

Meteorologists predict strong snow over the next 36 hours and then again higher temperatures. Chief Stewart, experts forecast a severe deterioration of conditions.

Your colleagues from the Fire Service in Plovdiv led personally by Commissioner Dimchev and a group of divers, are the first in line to rescue people in distress from the dams and the flooding in the neighboring areas around the Region. The 3000 year old City of Plovdiv is in danger of being flooded.

The equipment that you and the City of Toronto donated to your colleagues from Plovdiv is being used throughout the area and the Region. I want to assure you that because of this equipment, firefighters can perform at their duties in this complex situation. However, as you know, we have limited equipment for what is now an extremely large disaster.

If you have any opportunities to assist us with a further donation of equipment and other techniques, you will help your colleagues to better meet the challenges of nature that we are facing. As before, we will assume all costs. The City of Toronto will not incur any costs or liabilities.

I wish you and your family good health and good times.

Sincerely,

Zdravko Dimitrov
Regional Governor
Plovdiv Region

cc. Joseph Pennachotti
City Manager
City of Toronto

Richard Majkot



