

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
April 27, 2022

Subject

Free Transit on MiWay for Volunteers during the 2022 Ontario Parasport Games and Ontario Summer Games.

Recommendation

That the exceptions to the 2022 User Fees and Charges By-Law 0247-2021 schedule B-3 as outlined in the Corporate Report dated April 5, 2022 from the Commissioner of Community Services to provide the following throughout the duration of the 2022 Ontario Parasport Games (May 13-15, 2022) and Ontario Summer Games (July 21-24, 2022) be approved as follows;

- a) That free Transit on MiWay be provided for accredited volunteers supporting the games;
- b) That MiWay Charter services at an hourly rate equivalent to the Total Direct Operating Expense as reported to the Ministry of Transportation in-lieu of the Council approved rates.

Executive Summary

- City of Mississauga is hosting both the Ontario Parasport Games (OPG) from May 13-15, 2022 and the Ontario Summer Games (OSG) from July 21-24, 2022.
- The City anticipates recruiting approximately 1,100 Volunteers between the two games.
- Free transit for accredited volunteers during multi-sport Games has been offered by previous host communities and there is a desire to offer this service in Mississauga to support volunteerism during the Games.
- Free transit access assists in removing barriers for prospective volunteers who may not have transportation readily available and provides an incentive to ride and experience our quality transit system, allowing individuals to move about and experience a connection to Mississauga.
- Accessing free transit for the Games provides an opportunity to promote the City's strategic Pillars such as MOVE, CONNECT & GREEN in meaningful ways.

Background

The City of Mississauga is excited to play host to the Ontario Parasport Games (OPG) May 13-15, 2022 and the Ontario Summer Games (OSG) July 21 to 24, 2022. The Games provide Ontario's best athletes an opportunity to compete in a number of sport events at various locations across the City of Mississauga.

The planning of the Games has been underway and led by the Games Organizing Committee, with oversight by the Host Committee, including Council Chairs and senior leadership.

Comments

Successful implementation of the Games relies heavily on staff's extensive pre-planning efforts in addition to a significant number of volunteer positions that support on site during the game days. The City anticipates recruiting and utilizing approximately 1,100 volunteers between both Games.

Free transit for accredited volunteers during multi-sport Games has been offered by previous host communities and there is a desire to offer this service in Mississauga to support volunteerism during the Games. Volunteering for the Games provides a unique experience and an exciting opportunity to give back to their community and the world of sport. Free transit access assists in removing barriers for prospective volunteers who may not have transportation readily available and provides an incentive to ride and experience our quality transit system, allowing individuals to move about and experience a connection to Mississauga. Similarly, it allows a focus on sustainability and mitigating environmental impacts for the Games to showcase the importance of these values. Each person that chooses to ride MiWay reduces their carbon footprint and helps conserve energy by eliminating travel that would have otherwise been made in a single occupancy car.

All volunteers are registered and accredited through the Games Committee and will be issued accreditation passes. For implementation purposes, the accreditation pass will in essence be the proof of status for the volunteers to be granted free rides on MiWay.

Strategic Plan

Providing an incentive for the volunteers to use MiWay during game days also contributes to promoting the City's Strategic Pillars such as MOVE, CONNECT & GREEN in memorable ways.

Financial Impact

The anticipated fare revenue shortfall is insignificant compared to projected COVID ridership impacts. The operating costs of the Charter services will be fully recovered through the Ontario Summer Games (Cost Centre 24610) and Parasport (Cost Centre 24815) budget.

Conclusion

Providing free access on MiWay poses as an incentive to encourage the volunteers to utilize public transit. This not only supports an opportunity to access transportation during the game days of the Paraspport and Ontario Summer Games this summer but ensures that volunteers are not hindered by transportation availability or costs. It further exemplifies the City's commitment to sustainable practises and provides an opportunity to combat climate change by assisting in reducing single vehicle transportation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jodi Robillos", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Kelly Reichheld, Manager, Sports, Community Development, Standards
& Training