



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: December 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Approval to Attend the Intelligent Communities Forum Top7 Communities of 2020 Conference in Taoyuan, Taiwan
PREPARED BY: Nasir Kenea, CIO, Ext. 4733

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report dated December 9, 2019 entitled “ICF Top7 Communities of 2020 Conference in Taoyuan, Taiwan” be received; and,
- 2) That the City of Markham be represented at the Conference by Chief Information Officer, Nasir Kenea; and,
- 3) That the total cost of to attend the conference approximately in the amount of \$3,000 be funded from the 2020 Operating budget account 400 998 5200; and further,
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request approval for business travel for Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer to Taoyuan, Taiwan from February 7, 2020 to February 13, 2020 to make a presentation, and to participate on behalf of Markham at the Intelligent Community Forum’s (ICF) TOP7 Communities of 2020 Conference and Announcement.

Participation in the conference will serve to enhance Markham’s profile and reputation among global intelligent communities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Markham has been named to the Intelligent Community Forum’s Smart21 Intelligent Communities of 2020. Inclusion on this list of twenty-one leading municipalities from around the world recognizes Markham’s readiness and performance in the development of inclusive prosperity, social health and cultural richness on a foundation of information and communications technology.

After further evaluation by ICF, seven of the Smart21 communities will advance and be named as the Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2020. Markham is currently preparing a submission to be considered as one of the ICF Top7 communities. The submission is due the first week of January 2020.

The announcement of the Top7 will be made on February 10, 2020 at the ICF Top7 Communities of 2020 Conference in Taiwan.

The event will bring together the founders of the ICF, representatives from Taiwanese companies and organizations along with delegates from Intelligent Communities from around the world. The agenda will include keynote speakers, panel discussions, study tours and presentations that detail leading community-based technology solutions from global communities and organizations.

OPTIONS / DISCUSSION

Markham has received an invitation to attend the conference to speak at the conference and to have its case study profiled. This represents an outstanding opportunity for the City CIO to highlight Markham's digital achievements and to share its message with a global audience.

Benefits for Markham to participate in the Conference include the following:

1. The Conference will showcase Markham as the high-tech capital of Canada and promote Markham's strong information technology and knowledge-based business sectors, as well as the excellent quality of life in our community.
2. It helps build and strengthen relationships with a broad range of municipalities and businesses, which may lead to increased cooperation, and possible investment and trade opportunities for Markham.
3. The Conference provides an international forum in which to learn and network with leading experts in the development of intelligent communities.
4. Markham has an opportunity to share its achievements in digital and Smart City initiatives, enhancing the City's international reputation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Costs related to conference registration, some accommodation, site visits and some meals will be covered by the conference organizers.

Travel expenses, ground transportation and incidentals at an estimated cost of \$3,000 will be covered from the 2020 operating budget of the ITS Department.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This opportunity supports the Digital Markham Strategy initiative to "Create a compelling Digital Markham identity" with a focus on innovation as well as the new Building Markham's Future Together council strategy.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:

Trinela Cane
Commissioner, Corporate Services