



Report to: Economic Development Committee

Report Date: December 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Philippines Business and Community Relations
PREPARED BY: S. Chait, Director of Economic Development, ext. 4871

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled "Philippines Business and Community Relations" be received; and
- 2) That the Town be represented by Mayor Frank Scarpitti, and
- 3) That the total cost not exceed \$4,000.00 and be expensed from within the 2012 Business Travel operating account 610-9985201; and further
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To obtain Council approval for Mayor Scarpitti to travel to Philippines January 17-21, 2012 to represent Town at official opening of Markham housing project, at meetings with high level national and local officials, and to engage in business investment attraction promotion.

DISCUSSION:

The government of the Philippines (through its Consul General in Toronto) and the Mayor of Las Pinas City have formally invited Mayor Scarpitti to travel to the Philippines in January 2012 to be present at the opening of the Markham housing project in Las Pinas. This project, funded by charitable contributions raised in Markham ON over the past two years, will house 51 low income families and also provide them with a community centre building. The Mayor of the local municipality is planning a formal community celebration to recognize the project's completion and to thank the residents and businesses and Council of the Town of Markham for their generosity. As well, the Government of the Philippines is interested in fostering closer business and community

ties with Markham. The Consul General has journeyed to Manila to arrange a meeting for Mayor Scarpitti with the President of the Philippines, and to help host a business event at which Mayor Scarpitti will speak about the merits of Markham as a superior business and investment location in North America.

FINANCIAL TEMPLATE

The cost of this project is mitigated by scheduling the Mayor's visit on the return leg of his Council-approved travel to India and Dubai in January 2012. Rather than flying to Markham from Dubai on January 16th with the returning business delegation, the Mayor will fly to Manila.

Air fare	\$1,800.00
Hotel/Food	\$ 1,500.00
Meeting Expenses	<u>\$ 700.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,000.00

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The "Philippines Business and Community Relations" initiative is in keeping with the "Global Markham" program of the Town's 10-Year Economic Strategy, "Markham 2020".

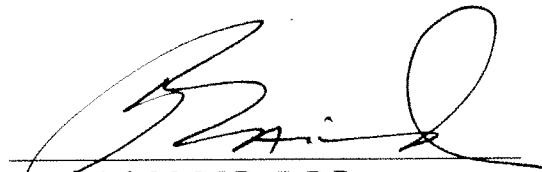
DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

N/A.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Stephen A. Chait, Ec.D., CMC
Director, Economic Development



Jim Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

A: Letter from Consul General Pedro Chan

28 November 2011

His Worship

Mayor FRANK SCARPITTI

City of Markham

101 Town Centre Boulevard

Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

Dear **Mayor Scarpitti**,

It is my honor to invite you to visit the Philippines next January 2012 for the main purpose of exploring business opportunities in my country. As you are aware, under the leadership of our new President, Benigno Simeon Aquino III, the Philippines has become a more attractive haven for businessmen and investors and we are looking forward to foreign investors taking advantage of the new business climate under a strengthened rule of law and democracy.

I have also been informed that there is a "Markham Village" in Las Pinas City, Philippines, which was built largely through the efforts of your indefatigable and long-time City Councilor Alex Chiu and intended to benefit the poor inhabitants of that City. Your visit to the country would afford you an opportunity to visit "Markham Village" and see for yourself the fruits of Councilor's Chiu's labor.

For your added information, the Consulate is helping organize a group of Filipino-Canadians who are going on a tour of various cities and tourist sites in the Philippines also next January 2012. The group plans to call on President Aquino. Should the President's schedule allow such a call, and should your own schedule permit, we would be very happy if you could join our group too.

Should you have any suggestions on any business meetings and other specific activities of special interest to you during the visit, please feel free to inform us.

I look forward to your reply, Honorable Mayor.

Sincerely yours,

(original signed)

PEDRO O. CHAN

Consul General