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## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** January 9, 2025  
**To:** Finance & Labour Relations Committee  
**From:** Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services  
**Report Number:** FIN25-001  
**Attachments:** None

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**Title:** United Way Request to Waive Facility Fees

**Objective:** To consider the request to waive fees for use of the Agriplex fieldhouse on March 15, 2025, for a United Way fundraising pickleball tournament.

**Background:** The United Way have witnessed a growing demand for support in every area that they serve within our community. Increases in food insecurity, homelessness, and intimate partner violence underscore the urgent need for action. The United Way plays a pivotal role in funding services through local organizations, reaching over 26,000 individuals across Stratford and across Huron and Perth counties each year.

The upcoming Pickleball Tournament will raise funds to support essential local initiatives, including the Urgent Needs Fund and the Stratford Connection Centre. The Connection Centre provides a vital drop-in space for individuals experiencing homelessness, offering trauma-informed care, substance use support, and mental health counseling. Last year alone, the centre served 312 individuals in need.

Stratford Pickleball Association in partnership with the Chairs of United Way Campaign are seeking the support of the City of Stratford to donate the courts to ensure that the event can maximize the proceeds for the United Way. With an ever-increasing demand for all programs in our community, events such as these help to get the campaign over the finish line.

**Analysis:** Historically, requests of this nature were assessed through the Community Grants program as staff do not have authority to waive fees. This is still the case, however, for tracking purposes, fee waivers are now tracked through the facility budgets.

The estimated revenues that would be waived for the tournament is \$875.

Should the Committee and Council wish to support this request, there is no tax levy impact, rather the impact is measured in lost revenues due to reduced court availability for fee-paying users.

**Financial Implications:**

**Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

If approved the financial impact is as noted above, with reduced revenues by \$875.00. HST does not apply in the case of fee waiver entries.

**Insurance considerations:**

The facility user will be required to purchase facility user insurance or provide coverage naming the City as additional insured of not less than Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000).

**Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

**Work Together for Greater Impact**

This report aligns with this priority as the waiving of the fees would assist the United Way in serving those in need within the community. The City is a funding supporter of the United Way for many years.

**Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

**Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "United Way Request to Waive Facility Fees" (FIN25-001), be received;**

**AND THAT direction be provided regarding the facility rental fee waiver request in the amount of \$875 for use of the Agriplex fieldhouse on March 15, 2025.**

**Prepared by:** Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services

**Recommended by:** Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer