

MAY 01 2017

File: 0550-04

REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATION

Please be advised that:

1. Committee and board meeting schedules are available at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca or by calling 250-334-6000. Delegations are scheduled at the beginning of meetings.
2. Delegation applications must be received at least one week prior to the requested meeting date.
3. Maximum presentation time is 10 minutes, unless previously approved.
4. Presenters are to address the board or committee, and not the audience.
5. Please ensure that your cell phone is turned OFF during the meeting.
6. Presentation materials are to be submitted to the legislative services department a minimum of one day before the meeting date.
7. Applications to appear as a delegation must complete this form and email it to administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca; mail to 600 Comox Road, Courtenay, B.C., V9N 3P6 or drop off in person at 600 Comox Road, Courtenay, B.C.

The personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Local Government Act* and *Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)* bylaws. The information provided will become a matter of public record and will be published in meeting agendas and minutes and posted online with the exception the information provided in the contact purposes only box. For enquiries about the use of information on this form please contact the corporate legislative officer at 600 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC or at 250-334-6000 or email at administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca.

Name(s) of person(s) speaking:

GARY STEVENSON

Organization you are representing:

SAFETHAVEN: REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP GROUP

Primary purpose of the organization:

SPONSOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Number of members:

18

ONLY 2 AT MEETING

Mailing address:

UNIT 127- 2077 ST. ANDREWS WAY

City:

COURTENAY BC.

Postal code:

V9N 9V5

Contact Name:

GARY STEVENSON: CHAIRPERSON

Subject matter:

BUS FARES FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES.

Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e., letter of support, funding):

WE ARE ASKING THE R.D. TO CONSIDER A COMPASSIONATE POLICY OF WAIVING TRANSIT FEES FOR REFUGEES IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF SETTLEMENT IN THE COMOX VALLEY.

Requested meeting date:

MAY 16 2017 4 PM

Audio-visual equipment required:

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Date of Application:

APRIL 30 2017

Information for contact purposes only

Tel:

Email:

com

Internal Use Only

Service this delegation applies to:

Committee delegation to go to:

Cc delegation application to:



SAFEHAVEN:

Refugee Sponsorship Group

Early in 2016, a few members from two Comox Valley Churches were talking about the refugee tragedy that was dominating the headlines around the world: from that conversation grew the plan to sponsor 1 or more families to come to our beautiful Comox Valley. That group is now called Safehaven: Refugee Sponsorship Group and the group is working through the government-approved Sponsorship Agreement Holder, the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA). You can view their history, mandate and structure at their detailed website icavictoria.org.

We have a bank account at the Coastal Community Credit Union with 3 Trustees. The account is stand alone, transparent and auditable. To date we have raised approximately \$65,000.00 and will continue to fundraise issuing tax receipts when requested.

We have an online refugee donation link established on St. George's United website at stgeorgesunited.com and we now have a Facebook page under Safehaven: Refugee Sponsorship Group with a donation link. We will be sponsoring several fundraisers over the next 6 months so please watch the newspapers

ESTIMATED BUDGET*

We have entered into a contractual agreement with the ICA to sponsor a Syrian family of 7 who are "sheltering" in Turkey. The family is composed of a widowed Mother with 4 children (ages 12,10,8, and 4) and the grandparents 63 and 70. The below budget reflects the size of this family. To show their commitment, the ICA is supporting our fundraising effort with a contribution of \$5,000.00 and we are truly grateful.

The Safehaven Team consists of 18 ordinary Comox Valley residents who have agreed to be part of an extraordinary event, the rescue of this family who fled during the Syrian civil war from northern Syria.

For a refugee family of 7 – for a period of one year, the budget provides a very rough estimate, with many built-in assumptions. Assumptions include that all furnishings, appliances, phones and computers as well as some clothing will be donated.

EXPENSES	Monthly	Annual
Accommodation/Utilities	\$1,800	\$21,600
Food and Essentials	\$1,200	\$14,400
Clothing		\$ 2,100
Discretionary Spending	\$ 200	\$ 2,400
Transportation	\$ 308	\$ 3,696
Phones and Internet		\$ 3,000
Repayment of Travel loan**		\$ 5,500
Other misc.		\$ 5,200
Sundry Extras: <i>(School Supplies, Furniture, Medical, etc.)</i>		\$ 4,000
Canada Child Benefit* <i>(Paid directly to the mother)</i>		<u>(\$12,000)</u>
	TOTAL ANNUAL	<u>\$49,896</u>

**The above budget takes into consideration a partial amount for the Canada Child Benefit that the family of the mother is expected to receive.*

*** The Canadian Gov't bills refugees for air flights. This bill can be as high as \$15,000. The balance after the \$5,500.00 above will come from any overage we receive above the budget total.*

HOW TO DONATE:

- Directly to St George's United, Comox United, Cumberland United or Living Hope Alliance Church. Ensure your donation is marked for Safehaven or Refugee group. Comox Presbyterian and the Unitarian church have provided financial support and resources.
- Through St George's website: stgeorgesunited.com.
- Through Savehaven: Refugee Support Group's Facebook page.
- At any fundraiser.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this worthy cause! We will be holding public meetings over the next few months looking for more volunteers to help with the settlement of this family. Volunteers will be under the direction of the 18 Team Members (who have signed the legal contract with the ICA) on whom the decisions and responsibilities fall. If you wish to be actively involved, you can email garycstevenson@msn.com.