

**Notice of Motion, Cr Jamal Hakim: Funding support request, *Pasko sa Melbourne: Christmas in our Hearts* Festival**

**Motion**

1. That Council approves allocation of a one-off grant of \$12,000 via the discretionary fund to The Empowered Australian Multicultural Society (TEAMS) for the purpose of staging the *Pasko sa Melbourne: Christmas in our Hearts* festival to be held at the Queen Victoria Market on 5 December 2023 and that funding be subject to the sponsorship conditions advised by management including acknowledgement of City of Melbourne (CoM) support and post-event acquittal processes.

**Background**

2. TEAMS is a community organisation founded by a group of philanthropical entrepreneurs aiming to create programs for various community groups, ethnic communities, and micro-SMEs providing sustainable support for a social impact.
3. TEAMS has approached CoM for funding support towards an event aimed at supporting and celebrating the Filipino community in Melbourne. This follows initiation of the proposal by the Philippine Consulate General.
4. The event, *Pasko sa Melbourne: Christmas in Our Hearts*, aspires to offer a vibrant Christmas festival celebration for not only the Filipino community but also the wider community of Victoria. It aims to rejuvenate and fortify community ties, fostering mutual appreciation and bridging diverse groups. The event objectives, as described by TEAMS, is to:
  - Celebrate Christmas as an integral part of multicultural Victoria led by the Filipino Community.
  - Set a historical benchmark by launching a significant Christmas gathering in a major public venue such as the Queen Victoria Market.
  - Strengthen cross-cultural connections across various participating groups, encompassing the Filipino community, Australians, and other multicultural entities.
  - Showcase Filipino culture, emphasizing the distinct Filipino interpretation of the Christmas festivities, as well as highlighting products and services from Melbourne-based Filipino businesses throughout the event.
5. Supporting an event such which aims to build community and cultural awareness and harmony, supports CoM's objectives around an inclusive, diverse and multicultural city.
6. Due to timing of the event, there are currently no grant programs accessible to assist the staging of the Festival in the first week of December. CoM support through the discretionary fund will provide important one-off assistance in holding the first event as the Filipino community seeks to establish this festival in Melbourne. Management will also provide TEAMS with information on grant processes to assist any requests for on-going funding support.

**Mover: Cr Jamal Hakim**

**Seconder: Cr Philip Le Liu**