

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2020 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
SIMONE BRANDL**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Burnaby City Council, at its Closed meeting held on 2021 March 29, received and adopted a report from the Executive Committee of Council recommending that Ms. Simone Brandl be awarded the Kushiro Cup as the 2020 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Simone has been chosen for this award for her leadership, passion and volunteerism that have made a difference for many local families and individuals in Burnaby. Simone is all about connections, whether it be meeting the needs of an emergency food supply, child care, coats for kids or emotional support to community members, she is an inspiration. Simone embodies community spirit in helping to build our community into a caring, welcoming place for all.

**2.0 POLICY**

The Outstanding Citizen of the Year award honours Burnaby citizens who have made tremendous contributions to their communities, and supports the following goals of the City's Corporate Strategic Plan:

**Goals**

- A Connected Community
  - Social connection – enhance social connections throughout Burnaby

To: *His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors*  
From: *Executive Committee of Council*  
Re: *2020 Outstanding Citizen of the Year*  
*Simone Brandl*

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- An Inclusive Community
  - Create a sense of community – provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy life – encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being

### **3.0 2020 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Simone has been the Program Director for the North House of Burnaby Neighbourhood House since 2016, as well as a longtime resident of Burnaby. She has been active throughout Burnaby supporting the needs of families and individuals not just through her work, but also with her own personal volunteer time, with various committees, clubs and associations.

Numerous letters of recommendation highlighting Simone's accomplishments were received from local residents and businesses. As noted in one letter, "Simone is the unsung hero of 2020".

During the COVID-19 pandemic Simone recognized food as being the hardest commodity to secure. She took on the task to organize a food security working group to identify the needs of highly affected populations, especially those who had come under socio-economic hardships. Simone excels at connecting with stakeholders including local businesses, non-profits, and volunteers which was evident through her partnerships with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, and the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby, SFU Student Society Food Bank, Ryan's Rainbow Emergency Food Outreach among others. Her tireless efforts to provide healthy food for those experiencing need were demonstrated firsthand by how she customizes boxes of food items for families based on family composition and need. This project was a huge undertaking impacting all quadrants of Burnaby. Simone's outstanding drive, her leadership ability and coordination skills were brought to the forefront to effectively organize food hubs, secure fridges, transportation, engage a strong volunteer base, as well as networking with local businesses. In addition to providing much needed food, the results of her work offered critical support for the physical and mental health of many families throughout our community.

To date, Simone and the Food Security team are distributing food weekly to the table of over 4,200 Burnaby households. It is incredible! Simone's steady devotion and unwavering leadership have set an example. Her community-based model is the gold standard from which other cities can emulate.

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#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The Executive Committee of Council agrees with Jeff Clark, President, IAFF Local 323, Chris Bowcock, Fire Chief, and the Burnaby Firefighters; Carol-Ann Flanagan; Silvana Spindler; and Laurie Very, and are pleased to recommend that Council honour Simone Brandl as the City of Burnaby's "2020 Outstanding Citizen of the Year".

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Chair

Mayor M. Hurley  
Vice Chair

Copied to: Acting City Manager Director Corporate Services
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