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16 December 2009

Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Anita Sit)

Dear Ms Sit,

**Finance Committee
Meeting on 4 December 2009**

FCR(2009-10)43 on Enhancing Diversified Community Activities

I refer to your letter of 7 December 2009, seeking additional information relating to the existing mechanism for District Councils (DCs) to fund community involvement (CI) activities. The relevant information is set out in the following paragraphs.

Under the current mechanism, DCs consider funding applications from government departments, local organizations, DCs, committees or working groups under DCs or District Offices (DOs) for organising CI activities in accordance with the Manual on the Use of District Council Funds. Based on the existing categorization of information, the statistics on the categories and purposes, organizers, major beneficiaries and expenditure of the DC funded CI activities in 2008-09 is summarized at the **Annex**.

At present, after the DCs or their committees have made their decisions on applications on CI activities, applicants will be informed of the results. Applicants who are not satisfied with the application results may appeal to the full Councils or the relevant committees of the DCs concerned. The DCs or their committees will decide if the appeals should be allowed, having regard to the merits of individual cases. In 2008-09, 275 out of some 7 700 applications were rejected. There were 13 successful appeal cases.

(Miss Crystal Yip)
for Director for Home Affairs

**Community Involvement Activities
Financed by District Council Funds in 2008-09**

(A) Categories and Purposes

	Categories & Purposes	Expenditure	Number of Completed Projects/Proposals
1	Leisure and sports	\$134,880,000	4 050
2	Civic education and social services	\$35,710,000	1 179
3	Festive celebrations and activities	\$52,180,000	634
4	Culture and arts	\$24,560,000	627
5	Environmental protection, building management, health and hygiene	\$15,080,000	352
6	Staff cost ¹	\$17,070,000	Not applicable
7	Others ²	\$19,430,000	416
	Total :	\$298,910,000	7 258

¹ DCs may use not more than 10% of their respective district allocation for engaging dedicated staff to discharge DC duties all year round which may include administration work for the committees/ working groups under DC, coordination and promotion of large-scale and cross-year projects as well as monitoring and evaluation of projects.

² “Others” include activities to promote tourism and to train volunteer workers, etc.

(B) Organisers

Organisers		Number of Completed Projects/Proposals
1	Non-governmental organisations	5 359
2	DCs in partnership with non-governmental organizations ³	931
3	DCs in partnership with government departments ³	831
4	Government departments ⁴	137
Total:		7 258

³ The statistics include projects/proposals proposed by District Councils (DCs) and Committees/Working Groups under DCs/District Offices (DOs).

⁴ Activities organised by “government departments” usually refer to those organised by Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption and Hong Kong Police Force.

(C) Major Beneficiaries

Major beneficiaries		Number of Completed Projects/Proposals
1.	Residents of the district concerned, including the underprivileged ⁵	5 477
2.	Elderly	740
3.	Youngsters/Students	730
4.	Others ⁶	311
Total :		7 258

⁵ The underprivileged includes the disabled, new arrivals, ethnic minorities, households on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and single parent families, etc.

⁶ “Others” include those activities targeting school principals, teachers and drivers, etc.