

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

**Minutes of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee
and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee**

Thursday, November 5, 1998

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee met on Thursday, November 5, 1998, in Committee Room A, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 2:12 p.m.

Members Present:

Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee:

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Councillor Elizabeth Brown
Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Gordon Chong
Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Rob Davis
Councillor Joan King
Councillor Michael Prue

Emergency and Protective Services Committee:

Councillor Dennis Fotinos
Councillor Milton Berger
Councillor Brad Duguid
Councillor Mario Giansante
Councillor Doug Holyday
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
Councillor Frances Nunziata

Regrets:

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Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee:

Councillor Michael Feldman
Councillor John Filion
Councillor George Mammoliti

Emergency and Protective Services Committee:

Councillor Brian Ashton
Councillor Bas Balkissoon
Councillor Joanne Flint
Councillor Norman Gardner

Also Present:

Councillor Joe Mihevc

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski assumed the Chair.

**138. Squeegee Diversion Strategy for
Street-Involved Homeless Youth.**

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee had before them a joint report (October 22, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services proposing a service model that includes viable strategies for diverting street-involved homeless youth from squeegeeing and panhandling; and recommending that:

- (1) Council endorse a balanced approach to responding to squeegee activities which includes both enforcement and diversion strategies for street-involved youth;
- (2) Council urge the Provincial Government to come forward with enforcement legislation which will effectively deter squeegeeing;

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- (3) Council provide \$250,000.00 to develop and support an integrated service model for a subgroup of homeless street-involved youth who are not currently served by the existing service system. This service model will:
 - (a) provide a single point of access for homeless street-involved youth in both the east and west ends of the City, recognizing that there are currently no services available in the west end;
 - (b) create a new employment training program that will be specifically targeted to address the unmet and complex needs of homeless street-involved youth and divert them from squeegeeing and panhandling activity; and
 - (c) combine all of the existing and new program elements, including stabilization services, pre-employment training, and specialized employment training initiatives into one overall program;
- (4) the funds of \$250,000.00 be considered in the 1999 budget submission of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department;
- (5) Council request of the Province that the City of Toronto have the flexibility, under current regulations, to allow 16-17 year old street-involved homeless youth to reapply for social assistance, in the context of the integrated service model proposed in this report; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee also had before them the following communications:

- (October 28, 1998) from Mr. James Ridge, Director, Ontario Crime Control Commission, advising that he believes that the Commission's proposals related to squeegee activity are still being considered by the Premier and Cabinet; and
- (November 3, 1998) from Ms. Anne Dubas, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, requesting that reconsideration be given to the matter of issuance of a Request for Proposal; suggesting that the \$250,000.00 be used to stabilize and expand existing programs; and noting that the Metro Youth Outreach Program is a successful and established City-run and operated project and should be given extra funding to enhance its role in referring disadvantaged and homeless youth.

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The following persons appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Peter Clutterbuck, Co-Director, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto; and submitted a document, entitled "Surviving the Streets - Street Youth and Squeegeeing in Toronto," dated November, 1998;
- Mr. Tony Boston, Street Youth Community Project; and introduced a videotape on Street Involved Youth;
- Mr. Steve Gaetz, SHOUT Clinic;
- Ms. Michele Heath, The Meeting Place; and
- Councillor Joe Mihevc, York - Eglinton.

Councillor Fotinos moved that the Committees now recess to meet privately to hear a deputation from an individual, in accordance with Section 10(1)(ii) of the Council Procedural By-law, which was carried.

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee recessed at 3:20 p.m. to meet in camera to hear the aforementioned confidential deputation.

Members Present:

Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee:

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair
Councillor Elizabeth Brown
Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Gordon Chong
Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Rob Davis
Councillor Joan King
Councillor Michael Prue

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Emergency and Protective Services Committee:

Councillor Dennis Fotinos
Councillor Milton Berger
Councillor Brad Duguid
Councillor Mario Giansante
Councillor Doug Holyday
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
Councillor Frances Nunziata

The Committees adjourned their private meeting at 3:40 p.m., and immediately reconvened in public session with the foregoing members in attendance.

- A. Councillor Cho moved that the recommendations contained in the joint report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be adopted, subject to deleting Recommendation No. (2); and further suggested that the videotape on Street Involved Youth be shown at the next Council meeting.
- B. Councillor Fotinos moved that Recommendation No. (3) contained in the joint report be amended by adding at the beginning of such recommendation the following words:
- “as soon as the Provincial Government enacts the necessary enforcement legislation,”.
- C. Councillor Minnan-Wong moved that Recommendation No. (3) contained in the joint report be amended by adding thereto the following words:
- “and that this service model be audited and assessed for its value after twelve months by the City Auditor;”.
- D. Councillor King moved that:
- (i) Recommendation No. (1) contained in the joint report be amended by deleting the reference to enforcement;

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- (ii) the following new recommendations be added to those contained in the joint report:
 - “(a) Council request the Provincial Government to amend the Mental Health Act to ensure that mentally-ill youth living on the street can be taken into health care at the request of parents and doctors; and
 - (b) Council request the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to develop a policy which will see every effort being made to contact the parents of youth who are on the street.”

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski appointed Councillor Fotinos Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair, in order to speak to the foregoing matter.

- E. Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski moved that the implementation of the enforcement component be initiated only when the diversion strategy is in place.

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski resumed the Chair.

Upon the question of the adoption of part (i) of the foregoing motion D. by Councillor King, it was lost.

Upon the question of the adoption of part (ii)(a) of the foregoing motion D. by Councillor King, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of part (ii)(b) of the foregoing motion D. by Councillor King, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion A. by Councillor Cho, it was lost.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion B. by Councillor Fotinos, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion C. by Councillor Minnan-Wong, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion E. by Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski, it was carried.

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The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committees:

“The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee recommend the adoption of the joint report dated October 22, 1998, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, subject to:

- (i) approval of the 1999 Operating Budget; and
- (ii) amending the recommendations to read as follows:

“It is recommended that:

- (1) Council endorse a balanced approach to responding to squeegee activities which includes both enforcement and diversion strategies for street-involved youth;
- (2) Council urge the Provincial Government to come forward with enforcement legislation which will effectively deter squeegeeing;
- (3) as soon as the Provincial Government enacts the necessary enforcement legislation, Council provide \$250,000.00 to develop and support an integrated service model for a subgroup of homeless street-involved youth who are not currently served by the existing service system. This service model will:
 - (a) provide a single point of access for homeless street-involved youth in both the east and west ends of the City, recognizing that there are currently no services available in the west end;
 - (b) create a new employment training program that will be specifically targeted to address the unmet and complex needs of homeless street-involved youth and divert them from squeegeeing and panhandling activity; and
 - (c) combine all of the existing and new program elements, including stabilization services, pre-employment training, and specialized employment training initiatives into one overall program;

and that this service model be audited and assessed for its value after twelve months by the City Auditor;

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- (4) the implementation of the enforcement component be initiated only when the diversion strategy is in place;
- (5) the funds of \$250,000.00 be considered in the 1999 budget submission of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department;
- (6) Council request of the Province that the City of Toronto have the flexibility, under current regulations, to allow 16-17 year-old street-involved homeless youth to reapply for social assistance, in the context of the integrated service model proposed in this report;
- (7) Council request the Provincial Government to amend the Mental Health Act to ensure that mentally-ill youth living on the street can be taken into health care at the request of parents and doctors;
- (8) Council request the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to develop a policy which will see every effort being made to contact the parents of youth who are on the street; and
- (9) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.”

(Clause No. 1, Joint Report No. 1)

139. “No Fixed Address: Young Parents on the Street”.

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Emergency and Protective Services Committee on November 5, 1998, had before them a communication (August 13, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that City Council on July 29, 30 and 31, 1998, adopted Clause No. 1 of Report No. 10 of The Board of Health, headed “No Fixed Address: Young Parents on the Street,” wherein the Board recommended that the report dated July 10, 1998, from the Medical Officer of Health be referred to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee for information.

The Committees received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Medical Officer of Health - November 5, 1998)

(Clause No. 2(a), Joint Report No. 1)

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The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and The Emergency and Protective Services Committee adjourned their joint meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Chair.