

Other Items Considered by the Committee

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, received this Clause, for information.)

- (a) **Update Regarding the Evolution of Ambulance Services Within the Greater Toronto Area.**

The Community Services Committee reports having received the following joint report:

(September 30, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and General Manager, Toronto Ambulance, advising of the developments occurring within the ambulance service industry across the Greater Toronto Area, as a result of the enactment of Bill 152, which will take effect on January 1, 2000, when Upper Tier Municipalities will assume the responsibility for the delivery of land ambulance services; and recommending that the report be received for information.

- (b) **Toronto Ambulance and Medical Coverage at the 1999 Canadian National Exhibition.**

The Community Services Committee reports having received the following joint report:

(October 16, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and General Manager, Toronto Ambulance, advising, for information, of the successful partnership between Toronto Ambulance and Exhibition Place in providing on-site emergency medical services during the 1999 Canadian National Exhibition.

- (c) **Review of the Workers' Information and Action Centre of Toronto.**

The Community Services Committee reports having recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee the adoption of the following report:

- (i) (October 21, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services recommending that:

- (1) on the basis of the findings of the review of the Workers' Information and Action Centre of Toronto (WIACT) requested by City Council, the following changes be made to the Workers' Information and Action Centre of Toronto:

- (i) the Centre's policy, research, community liaison and education capacity be located in the Economic Development Division of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism (EDCT), and funding be provided to support these functions in 2000 and future years to the amount of \$185,000.00 net per annum;
 - (ii) the Centre's information, referral and counselling functions be transferred to an appropriate outside agency with a guarantee of adequate funding from the City for three years, in the amount of up to \$60,000.00 net for up to three years;
 - (iii) the City assist the selected agency to secure alternate sources of funds during the period 2000 to 2002; and
 - (iv) the role of the WIACT Advisory Committee be reviewed with the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department in light of the changes recommended above;
- (2) staff from the Community and Neighbourhood Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Departments work to expedite the transfer of functions and staff upon adoption of this report by City Council;
 - (3) for the year 2000 budget, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism provide for an additional \$185,000.00 net in its budget submission to fund the former WIACT's policy, research, community liaison and education functions, to be reviewed as part of the year 2000 budget process;
 - (4) for the year 2000 budget, the Community Services Grants Program provide for an additional \$60,000.00 as the first of a three-year contribution to cover the transfer to an appropriate outside agency of the former WIACT's information and referral functions, to be reviewed as part of the year 2000 budget process;
 - (5) this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee; and
 - (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (ii) (November 3, 1999) from Ms. Anne Dubas, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79.

Mr. Tim Maguire, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

(d) Options Available to Families Requiring Subsidized Child Care Adversely Affected By Provincial Changes in Asset Ceiling Provisions of the Needs Test.

The Community Services Committee reports having received the following report:

(October 15, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services discussing options available to families seeking or receiving subsidized child care who may be adversely affected by recent provincial changes to the treatment of Registered Retirement Savings Plans as assets under the Needs Test used to assess subsidy eligibility; and recommending that the report be received for information.

(e) Parenting Programs Funded by the City of Toronto.

The Community Services Committee reports having received the following report:

(October 19, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing, for information, an overview of parenting programs within the City of Toronto; and outlining strategies to preserve them.

(f) Options for Addressing the Projected 2000 Budget Increase for Hostel Services.

The Community Services Committee reports having recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee the adoption of the following report:

- (i) (October 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising Council of the projected \$27 million budget increase for Hostel Services in the year 2000; outlining options that Council could pursue in order to manage and/or reduce this projected increase; and recommending that:
 - (1) the Mayor be requested to meet with the Premier, and the Chair of the Community Services Committee be requested to meet with the Honourable John Baird, Provincial Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, Provincial Minister of Health, to discuss the issues contained in this report;
 - (2) the Provincial Government be requested to provide 80/20 cost-sharing on the actual per-diem costs of providing emergency shelter service in the City of Toronto;
 - (3) the Provincial Government be requested to provide 100 percent funding on all emergency shelter services provided to assaulted women and their children;

- (4) the Provincial Government be requested to provide 100 percent funding on all emergency shelter services provided to individuals with serious mental illness;
 - (5) the Mayor be requested to meet with the Prime Minister, and the Chair of the Community Services Committee be requested to meet with the Honourable Elinor Caplan, Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and the Honourable Jane Stewart, Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to discuss the issues contained in this report;
 - (6) the Federal Government be requested to provide 100 percent funding on all emergency shelter services provided to refugee claimants;
 - (7) the Federal Government be requested to provide 100 percent funding on all emergency shelter services provided to Aboriginal persons;
 - (8) the Provincial and Federal Governments be informed that should discussions regarding cost-sharing, as noted in the previous recommendations, not be resolved within the first six months of 2000, the City of Toronto will bill the respective governments for the services provided and will review whether the City can continue to expand the emergency shelter system beyond the service level set in the year 2000;
 - (9) the report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee, and the Budget Advisory Committee, for consideration as part of the year 2000 budget process; and
 - (10) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (ii) (November 4, 1999) from Ms. Anne Dubas, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, attaching a copy of a letter to The Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Federal Co-ordinator for Homelessness, urging the Federal Government to revive a national housing strategy and infrastructure program that will house the homeless and meet the needs of lower-income Canadians.

(g) Payment for Use of the Fort York Armoury.

The Community Services Committee reports having deferred consideration of the following report; and having directed that the Chair of the Community Services Committee be requested to continue his discussions with the Federal Minister of Defence with respect to this matter:

(October 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services recommending that:

- (1) Council authorize the payment of up to \$250,000.00 to the Department of National Defence for the use of the Fort York Armoury as an emergency shelter for homeless individuals for the period of June 24 to December 15, 1999; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

(h) Implementation of a Tenant Defence Fund.

The Community Services Committee reports having recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee:

- (i) **that a Tenant Defence Fund be established, as referred to in the attached report dated October 21, 1999, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services wherein she recommends that:**
 - (1) **should Council decide to approve a role for the City in helping to organize tenants and to ensure tenants have adequate representation before the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal (ORHT), that a Tenant Defence Fund be established in the manner outlined in this report;**
 - (2) **should the Committee recommend that a Tenant Defence Fund be established, this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee and to the Budget Advisory Committee as per the “Financial Control Protocols within the Revised Council-Committee Structure,” which was adopted by Council; and**
 - (3) **the appropriate City officials be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect to these recommendations; and**
- (ii) **that the following recommendations contained in the communication dated November 4, 1999, from Councillor Michael Walker, Chair, Sub-Committee to Restore Rent Controls, be referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services for incorporation into her forthcoming report on implementation of a Tenant Defence Fund, and that she be requested to note the Committee’s preference for Option No. 1 contained in the report dated November 3, 1999, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting “Grants to Tenant Associations from the Proposed Tenant Defence Fund”:**
 - “(1) **That a Request for Proposal be issued for a pilot project to retain the services of an organization to:**

- (a) **manage the Tenant Defence Fund set out in the attached communication (A), entitled ‘Tenant Defence Fund: Alternate Model’; and**
- (b) **provide assistance to tenants in organizing to dispute above-guideline rent increases at the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal.**

(2) That the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services prepare a further report to the Community Services Committee on how the Tenant Defence Fund granting process would work.”:

A. (October 21, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to the request of the Planning and Transportation Committee on October 4, 1999, to report on further issues with respect to the establishment of a Tenant Defence Fund to help tenants with above guideline rent increases; advising that the establishment of a Tenant Defence Fund would require an unanticipated increase in the approved 1999 Operating Budget; and recommending that:

- (1) should Council decide to approve a role for the City in helping to organize tenants and to ensure tenants have adequate representation before the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal (ORHT), that a Tenant Defence Fund be established in the manner outlined in this report;
- (2) should the Committee recommend that a Tenant Defence Fund be established, this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee and to the Budget Advisory Committee as per the “Financial Control Protocols within the Revised Council-Committee Structure,” which was adopted by Council; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect to these recommendations;

B. (October 6, 1999) from the City Clerk advising that the Planning and Transportation Committee on October 4, 1999:

- (i) endorsed the following action taken by the Toronto Community Council at its meeting on September 13, 1999, with respect to the Tenant Defence Fund:

“The Toronto Community Council:

- (1) endorsed the recommendations for a Tenant Defence Fund presented to the Planning and Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on September 13, 1999; and

- (2) supported the recommendations of the Sub-Committee to Restore Rent Control, including its request for a meeting with the Honourable Steven Gilchrist, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.”;

and forwarded notice of its endorsement in this respect to the November 4, 1999, meeting of the Community Services Committee; and

- (ii) forwarded the action taken by the Toronto Community Council, as outlined above, to the other Community Councils with a request that they consider this matter and provide comment back to the Community Services Committee;

and further that the Planning and Transportation Committee, in part, requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to report to the November 4, 1999, Community Services Committee meeting and to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to Save Rent Control:

- (a) on the feasibility of funding the Tenant Defence Fund using one-fifth of 1 percent of all taxes paid by rental buildings in the City of Toronto; and
- (b) an indication of the tenant groups which are currently in need of experienced assistance by the City;

- C. (October 14, 1999) from the City Clerk, Etobicoke Community Council, advising that the Etobicoke Community Council on October 13, 1999, directed that the Community Services Committee be advised of its support of the concept to establish a Tenant Defence Fund, subject to the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services requested by the Planning and Transportation Committee on October 4, 1999;
- D. (November 3, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting Council’s ability to delegate granting power, in the event that Council decides to establish a Tenant Defence Fund as proposed by the Sub-Committee to Restore Rent Control;
- E. (November 3, 1999) from Ms. Anna Maria Recine-Pynn, Association Member 302, in support of the proposed Tenant Defence Fund;
- F. (November 4, 1999) from Councillor Michael Walker, Sub-Committee to Restore Rent Control, advising that the Sub-Committee at its informal meeting on October 29, 1999, recommended:
 - “(1) That a Request for Proposal be issued for a pilot project to retain the services of an organization to:

- (a) manage the Tenant Defence Fund set out in the attached communication (A), entitled 'Tenant Defence Fund: Alternate Model'; and
 - (b) provide assistance to tenants in organizing to dispute above-guideline rent increases at the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal.
- (2) That the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services prepare a further report to the Community Services Committee on how the Tenant Defence Fund granting process would work.”;
- G. (November 4, 1999) from Mr. Sydney Palmer, member of the Tenants' Association at 10 Shallmar Boulevard, Toronto, requesting funding from the proposed Tenants' Defence Fund for a legal opinion on the critical issue of the Tribunal capital expenditure recognizing costs incurred by the previous owner;
- H. (November 4, 1999) from Mr. Abbas Kolia, Thorncliffe Park Tenant Coaliton, 65-71-75-79 Thorncliffe Park Drive Tenant Association, in support of the Tenant Defence Fund; and
- I. (November 4, 1999) from Ms. Anne Dubas, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79, attaching a copy of a letter to The Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Federal Co-ordinator for Homelessness, urging the Federal Governments to revive a national housing strategy and infrastructure program that will house the homeless and meet the needs of lower-income Canadians.

The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Brad Butt, Executive Director, Greater Toronto Apartment Association; and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Harry Hakomaki, The Building and Concrete Restoration Association; and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Paul York, Greater Toronto Tenant Associations;
- Mr. Paul Arvisais, LG Tenants' Association;
- Mr. Morris Stein;

- Ms. Marie Catherine; and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Howard Tessler, Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations;
- Ms. Maria Schabelski, on behalf of Mr. Jim Davison, President, 450 Walmer Road Tenants' Association;
- Ms. Janet McLeod;
- Ms. Ruth Easton, 47 Thorncliffe Park Tenants' Association;
- Mr. Vince Vresvia, Labourers Local 183;
- Ms. Mira Price, and submitted a brief in regard thereto; and
- Ms. Elinor Mahoney, Tenants' Advocacy Group.

(i) Transfer to the City of Toronto of the Supports for Daily Living Program.

The Community Services Committee reports having recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee the adoption of the following report:

(October 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the Supports for Daily Living Program which is being transferred from the Provincial to the Municipal level effective January 1, 2000; and recommending that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to enter into an agreement for 2000 with the Province of Ontario for the transfer of management and funding of the Supports for Daily Living Program at a gross cost of \$3.4 million to be 100 percent funded by the Province;
- (2) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to contract with the agencies identified in this report for the delivery of the Supports for Daily Living Program;
- (3) the funding allocations to agencies as identified in this report be maintained for as required by the Ministry of Community and Social Services;

- (4) this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

(j) Mayor's Youth Employment Summit: Final Report.

The Committee reports having received the following report; and having further directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to submit to the Community Services Committee in January 2000 a comprehensive report on all youth employment programs, such report also to include any details available on how many summer students are employed by various departments:

(October 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing, for information, a status report on follow-up activities that have resulted from the Mayor's Youth Employment Summit, and summarizing the outcomes from "Mayor Mel's Youth Employment Initiative."

(k) Adjustment to the 1999 Toronto Ambulance Operating Budget.

The Community Services Committee reports having recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee the adoption of the following report:

(October 16, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services recommending that:

- (1) the Toronto Ambulance operating budget be increased by \$418,600.00 and the provincial grant be increased by the corresponding amount; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be given the authority to give effect thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

BRAD DUGUID
Chair

Toronto, November 4, 1999

(Report No. 5 of The Community Services Committee, including additions thereto, was adopted, as amended, by City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999.)