

## **Establishing a Food and Hunger Action Committee**

*(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, amended this Clause by adding thereto the following:*

*“It is further recommended that:*

- (1) City Council acknowledge that the original request for the establishment of this initiative arose from Food Share and other organizations, including the Millennium Task Force; and*
- (2) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to convene regular meetings with Hunger Watch, The Food Policy Council, The Hunger Action Committee, and other organizations and groups now active in providing food to needy members of the community.”)*

**The Policy and Finance Committee recommends the adoption of the Recommendations of the Community Services Committee embodied in the following communication (December 1, 1999) from the City Clerk:**

### Recommendations:

The Community Services Committee on December 1, 1999, recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee:

- (1) the adoption of the report dated November 15, 1999, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the Establishment of a Food and Hunger Action Committee; and
- (2) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to begin the work to establish the Food and Hunger Action Committee in January 2000, and that the funds be found from within the \$505,000.00 already provided in the Operating Budget for Task Forces.

### Background:

The Community Services Committee had before it the following report and communication:

- (November 15, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the establishment of a Food and Hunger Action Committee; and
- (November 15, 1999) from the City Clerk advising that the Board of Health on November 15, 1999, endorsed the formation of a Commission on Food and Hunger, referred to in the communication from the City Clerk.

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

- Ms. Sue Cox, Daily Bread Food Bank; and
- Ms. Debbie Field, FoodShare.

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(Report dated November 15, 1999, addressed to the  
Community Services Committee from the  
Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services)

Purpose:

To seek Council's approval to establish a Food and Hunger Action Committee and recommend a budget of \$20,000.00 be established through the 2000 budget process in the Task Forces budget in the Other Corporate Expenditures Account.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Twenty Thousand Dollars is recommended to support the Phase 1 work of the Food and Hunger Action Committee. This amount will be requested as part of the Task Forces budget in the Other Corporate Expenditures Account through the 2000 budget process.

It is proposed that the 2000 budget request of \$20,000.00 be funded by reallocating base funding from the 1999 Approved Task Forces budget (\$505,000.00) in the Non-Program Expenditures budget, resulting in a net zero impact in 2000. In addition, in-kind staff support will be provided from the Social Development and Administration Division and Public Health for this initiative.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Council establish a Food and Hunger Action Committee which will report to Council through the Community Services Committee;
- (2) Council adopt the terms of reference outlined in this report for the Food and Hunger Action Committee;
- (3) a budget of \$20,000.00 be requested as part of the 2000 budget process in the Task Forces budget of the Other Corporate Expenditures Account to support the Phase 1 activities of the Food and Hunger Action Committee;
- (4) funding of the 2000 budget request of \$20,000.00 be considered from reallocating base funding from the 1999 Approved Task Forces budget (\$505,000.00 in the Non-Program

Expenditures budget), from other initiatives that have wound down and do not require funding in 2000;

- (5) as part of the 2000 Operating Budget process, the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services identify what initiatives have wound down and will not need funding in 2000, in order that funding of \$20,000.00 could be considered for reallocation to the proposed Food and Hunger Action Committee;
- (6) this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration, and the Budget Advisory Committee secretary for budget process pending file, in accordance with the Financial Control Protocols adopted by Council; and
- (7) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

#### Background:

On October 15, 1999, Hunger Watch, in association with Councillors Korwin-Kuczynski, Pam McConnell, Jane Pitfield, Irene Jones and Brad Duguid hosted a World Food Day Symposium which included a presentation by the Mayor, workshops with senior staff from the City, and an announcement of a proposed Commission on Food and Hunger.

On November 2, 1999, the Millennium Task Force had before it a communication from Councillor Pam McConnell proposing that a Commission on Food and Hunger be established, and outlining a terms of reference for the Commission. The Millennium Task Force referred the matter to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services requesting a report to the December meeting of the Community Services Committee.

#### Comments:

As identified in Councillor McConnell's proposal for a Commission on Food and Hunger (see Appendix "A"), the City responses to food and hunger issues are many and varied. For example, the Toronto Food Policy Council is a sub-committee of the Board of Health; there are grants made available to community-based agencies; nutrition programs in school co-sponsored with the school boards; support to food access programs; and the work of Public Health in promoting access to nutritional food. However, in the new City of Toronto, there has been no opportunity to inventory City responses, making it difficult to assess our effectiveness in meeting the needs of City residents.

Further, as identified by Hunger Watch, the pressure on City and community-based resources to meet the basic needs of an increasing number of City residents is building, exacerbated by policy and funding changes at senior levels of government. For example, the Department has been asked to report in the New Year on the issue of City funding to food banks. In addition, Council recently adopted the Action Plan for the Children's Report Card, which calls for increased City support for the expanded Child Nutrition Program and establishing the Peer Nutrition Program. The Food and Hunger Action Committee provides a forum and opportunity to begin assessing

needs and current City responses, and recommending steps toward a more comprehensive policy and service strategy for the City respecting food access.

The Department has reviewed the terms of reference proposed by Councillor McConnell and offers the following minor amendments. It is proposed that the initiative be renamed the Food and Hunger Action Committee. Further, it is recommended that the Action Committee be established as a sub-committee of the Community Services Committee, given the significant role the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department, and in particular Public Health, plays in responding to food and hunger issues. These amendments have been incorporated into a revised terms of reference found in Appendix "B".

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Department will provide staff resources from Public Health and the Social Development and Administration Division to assist in supporting the Action Committee's work. However, the staffing required to conduct the literature review and consolidate the research information and consultation findings into a report and the printing and distribution costs for the report cannot be accommodated within existing Departmental resources. It is, therefore, recommended that \$20,000.00 be allocated for this initiative from the Task Forces budget in the Other Corporate Expenditures Account as part of the 2000 budget process. The \$20,000.00 would be reallocated from within the Task Forces budget from other initiatives that have wound down and do not require funding in 2000. Therefore, there would be no net impact on the Task Forces budget request related to Community and Neighbourhood Services Department led initiatives.

#### Conclusions:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee provides an opportunity for the City to identify the hunger and food issues, consolidate the information on the range of City responses to these issues, begin articulating the City role and policy framework for responding to food and hunger issues, and recommending further action and strategies.

The Department supports the proposed terms of reference developed by Councillor Pam McConnell as a first phase in addressing food and hunger issues, and recommends the Committee be named the Food and Hunger Action Committee. Further it is recommended that the Committee report to the Community Services Committee on its findings and recommendations.

The Social Development and Administration Division and Public Health will provide policy and research support toward this initiative, however, additional support for the Action Committee's work will be required. Therefore, the Department is recommending that \$20,000.00 be allocated from the Task Forces Budget in the Other Corporate Expenditures Account in the 2000 budget process.

Contact:

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Appendix "B"

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Food and Hunger Action Committee

Mandate:

The Food and Hunger Action Committee will work to improve food security and access to nutritious food and reduce hunger in the City of Toronto.

The Action Committee will work in two phases.

Phase 1 will consolidate the information currently available on the state of food and hunger related issues in the City, using community consultations and internal review of material currently available. Phase 1 will make initial recommendation about how to proceed on these issues.

Subject to the outcome of Phase 1, Phase 2 will identify policy and program changes required to improve the co-ordination and delivery of food and hunger related services, and determine the appropriate respective roles for each level of government. The Commission will report through the Community Services Committee to Council proposing a specific Phase 2 mandate, and the allocation of appropriate resources prior to initiating Phase 2.

Phase 1: Activities:

The Action Committee will conduct consultations in all areas of the City, providing local residents, community groups and local Councillors an opportunity to identify food and hunger issues affecting their community and the City as a whole.

The Action Committee will work with relevant City Departments and divisions, including Public Health, Social Development and Administration, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and Urban Planning and Development to compile an inventory of City programs and policies affecting food and hunger issues in Toronto.

The Action Committee will review available literature of urban food and hunger issues in Toronto and other jurisdictions, and receive briefings from key stakeholders.

The Action Committee will consolidate the findings from the consultations, the program inventory and the literature review, and based on those findings, make initial recommendations on methods of improving nutrition's and reducing hunger, including proposals for the mandate of the Action Committee in Phase 2.

The Action Committee will compile its finding and recommendation in a “Report on Food and Hunger” to be presented to Council through the Community Services Committee.

Phase 1: Timelines:

Consultations will occur between January and March 2000.

The program inventory and literature review will be completed by April 1, 2000.

The Action Committee will draft its report in April 2000 and present it to the May meeting of the Community Services Committee.

Phase 1: Responsibilities:

The activities will take place under the direction of the Action Committee using resources from the City and community groups. Specifically:

- the consultations will be co-ordinated, staffed and supported by the Hunger Watch Coalition, including scheduling meetings, arranging space, and providing notification and on-site management of the meetings;
- an inter-departmental working group led by the Social Development and Administration Division, including Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and Urban Planning and Development Services, will conduct the inventory of programs;
- conducting the literature review will be the responsibility of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department;
- the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department will compile the report of the Action Committee with the assistance of the Hunger Watch Coalition; and
- the City will fund the printing of the report and the distribution will be funded and co-ordinated jointly by the City and the Hunger Watch Coalition.

Membership:

The membership of the Action Committee will include Councillors Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Pam McConnell, Jane Pitfield, Irene Jones, and Brad Duguid.

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(Communication dated November 15, 1999, addressed to the  
Community Services Committee from the City Clerk)

The Board of Health at its meeting on November 15, 1999, had before it a communication (November 2, 1999) from the City Clerk advising that the Millennium Task Force, at its meeting on November 2, 1999:

- (1) endorsed the concept of a Commission on Food and Hunger as a Millennium Initiative;
- (2) referred the foregoing matter to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services with a request that she report thereon to the December 1, 1999, meeting of the Community Services Committee; and
- (3) directed that a copy of the foregoing matter be forwarded to the Board of Health for information and any action it deems appropriate.

The Board also had before it a communication (November 9, 1999) from Ms. Charna Gord, Acting Project Coordinator, Toronto Food Policy Council, advising that the Toronto Food Policy Council on November 3, 1999, adopted a motion to enthusiastically endorse the formation of the Commission on Food and Hunger and to assist the process to the extent of its resources.

The Board also had before it a report (October 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the adequacy of the standards of food donated to and distributed by food banks as requested by the Board of Health at its meeting on September 12, 1999; and recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

The Board of Health:

- (1) received the aforementioned report; and
- (2) endorsed the formation of the Commission on Food and Hunger as set out in the Terms of Reference appended to the aforementioned communication from the City Clerk.

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(A copy of Appendix "A" entitled, "Proposal for a Commission on Food and Hunger" appended to the foregoing report (November 15, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services was forwarded to all Members of Council with the December 7, 1999, agenda of the Policy and Finance Committee, and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)