

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Community Services Committee

Meeting No. 5

Thursday, March 29, 2001

The Community Services Committee met on Thursday, March 29, 2001, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:44 a.m.

Members Present:

	<u>9:44 a.m. - 12:32 p.m.</u>	<u>2:12 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.</u>
Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair	X	X
Councillor Olivia Chow	X	
Councillor Suzan Hall		X
Councillor Anne Johnston		X
Councillor Joe Mihevc	X	X
Councillor Michael Prue		X
Councillor Michael Walker		X

Regrets:

Councillor Norman Kelly

Also Present:

Councillor Frank Di Giorgio
Councillor David Miller
Councillor Frances Nunziata

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meetings of the Community Services Committee held on February 12, 2001 and February 22 and 26, 2001, were confirmed.

5.1 Integrated Fire and Police Radio Communication System - Six-Month Status Report.

The Committee had before it a communication (February 15, 2001) from the City Clerk advising that the Policy and Finance Committee on February 15, 2001, received a joint report (January 19, 2001) from the Fire Chief, the Chief of Police, and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services providing the fourth semi-annual status report on the Integrated Fire and Police Radio Communications System, and directed that a copy thereof be forwarded to the Community Services Committee for information.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Fire Chief; Chief of Police - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(a), Report No. 3)

5.2 Amendments to the City of Toronto Municipal Code to Increase Fees and Charges for Services and Activities Provided by Toronto Fire Services.

The Committee had before it a joint report (February 21, 2001) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief recommending that:

- (1) Schedule "A" To Section 441-1 of the Municipal Code Fire Services and Inspections be amended by increasing the fee for Items 26, 27 and 28 to \$350.00 and for Item 29 to \$175.00;
- (2) Section 441-1 of the Code be amended to provide for "non-emergency elevator incidents responses" and to impose a fee for service to such responses of \$350.00; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned joint report.

(Clause No. 6, Report No. 3)

**5.3 Toronto EMS - Emergency Medical Dispatcher
“Centre of Excellence” Accreditation Program.**

The Committee had before it a report (March 9, 2001) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services providing an update to City Council on the status of an initiative which will result in the Toronto EMS Communications Centre achieving internationally recognized professional accreditation; and recommending that this report be forwarded to City Council for information.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Committee received the aforementioned report, and further directed that it be forwarded to Council for information.

(Clause No. 7, Report No. 3)

5.4 Toronto Emergency Medical Services - 2000 Quality Assurance Report.

The Committee had before it a report (February 27, 2001) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services submitting, for information, the 2000 Quality Assurance Report for Toronto Emergency Medical Services.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; General Manager, Toronto
Emergency Medical Services - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(b), Report No. 3)

5.5 Co-ordinating Employment Services in Toronto.

The Committee again had before it a report (January 12, 2001) from the Commissioner of

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Community and Neighbourhood Services submitting a copy of a report, entitled “Combining Efforts, Co-ordinating Employment Services in Toronto”, dated January 2001, prepared by the intergovernmental Joint Senior Steering Committee (comprised of Toronto Social Services, Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Human Resources Development Canada); noting that the report details the collaborative progress of the three levels of government in maximizing the efficiency and quality of employment service delivery in the City of Toronto; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The following persons gave an overhead presentation on the aforementioned report “Combining Efforts, Co-ordinating Employment Services in Toronto”:

- Ms. Heather MacVicar, General Manager, Social Services Division; and
- Ms. Diane Bradley, Director General, Service Delivery, Toronto York Region, Human Resources Development Canada.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee:

- (1) received the aforementioned report; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to ask the intergovernmental Joint Senior Steering Committee to consider:
 - (a) making the web-based employment services available in all local libraries, and consult with the City Library Board on the feasibility of establishing a single Internet entry for youth seeking employment services; and
 - (b) connecting with the various youth based programs designed to outreach to youth in malls and TTC stations;

and report further to the Community Services Committee in the fall of 2001 with a presentation thereon.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Social Services Division - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(c), Report No. 3)

**5.6 Learning Enrichment Foundation Demonstration Pilot Project:
Contract Reconciliation.**

The Committee again had before it a report (January 24, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on Toronto Social Services' completion of the financial reconciliation of the Ontario Works demonstration project undertaken by the Learning Enrichment Foundation; and recommending that:

- (1) Toronto Social Services, in conjunction with Ministry of Community and Social Services officials, continue its work with the Learning Enrichment Foundation to effect the final reconciliation as dictated by the terms of the Demonstration Project contract; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.

The Committee also had before it a copy of a letter dated March 5, 2001, addressed to Mr. Gerrard Power, Office of Frank Klees, MPP from Mr. William Stewart, Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Community and Social Services, responding to a question raised by Mr. Power and the Learning Enrichment Foundation, and which was submitted by Councillor Frances Nunziata, Ward 11, York South-Weston.

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

- Ms. Eunice Grayson, Executive Director, and Mr. Donald C. MacDonald, Learning Enrichment Foundation;
- Councillor Frank Di Giorgio, Ward 12, York South-Weston; and

- Councillor David Miller, Ward 13, Parkdale-High Park.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Committee:

- (1) referred the aforementioned report to the City Auditor with a request that he undertake a review of the Learning Enrichment Foundation's contract with Toronto Social Services with a view to providing an outside, independent assessment of the financial reconciliation; and further that he report thereon to the Community Services Committee within three months on such review and the measures taken to ensure a fair assessment; and
- (2) established a working group, comprised of Councillors Frank Di Giorgio, Anne Johnston, David Miller and Frances Nunziata, to pursue further the issues raised with respect to the deputation by the Learning Enrichment Foundation, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; City Auditor; Ms. Eunice Grayson, Executive Director, Learning Enrichment Foundation; Councillor Frank Di Giorgio; Councillor Anne Johnston; Councillor David Miller; Councillor Frances Nunziata; c. General Manager, Social Services Division - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(d), Report No. 3)

5.7 Impact of Provincial Policy on Eligible Hours of Care for Subsidized Child Care.

The Committee had before it a report (March 5, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising of a recent change in provincial policy concerning eligible hours of care for clients in receipt of subsidized child care; outlining the service and policy implications for the City and recommending that:

- (1) the City continue discussions with the Ministry to secure the necessary flexibility in the interpretation and application of the new provincial guideline on "eligible hours of care" to support achievement of Ontario Works Program targets and the objectives in the Service Plan for Child Care and report to Council on the outcome of these discussions;
- (2) the City express its concern to the Minister of Community and Social Services that the

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policy and guidelines respecting "eligible hours of care" does not acknowledge the developmental benefit children receive through placement in high quality child care and that this policy can have a detrimental effect on children as a result of new and more frequent disruptions in their care arrangements as their families' work circumstances fluctuate; and

- (3) the appropriate City officials take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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

- Ms. Judy Meikle, York University Co-operative Daycare Centre; and
- Ms. Cheryl De Gras, on behalf of the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care and the Pat Schulz Child Care Centre located in the City Adult Learning Centre, and submitted a brief in regard thereto.

The Committee recommended to Council:

- (1) the adoption of the aforementioned report; (**Motion by Councillor Hall**)
- (2) that, for the time being, the Children's Services Division of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department maintain its current flexibility with respect to eligible hours of care for subsidized child care, and not cause major service disruption to parents and children; and (**Motion by Councillor Chow**)
- (3) that Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair of the Community Services Committee, and Councillor Suzan Hall be requested to meet with the provincial Minister of Community and Social Services and Minister of Education prior to the May 4, 2001 deadline for implementation of the new provincial guidelines, in order to stress the importance of providing flexibility to parents in need of child care. (**Motion by Councillor Chow**)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair, Community Services Committee; Councillor Suzan Hall; c. General

Manager, Children's Services Division - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 3)

5.8 Closure of Victoria Day Care and Family Services.

The Committee had before it a report (March 8, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the closure of Victoria Day Care and Family Services; outlining the actions being taken by Children's Services to ensure continued services to children, families and the community previously served by this agency; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Committee also had before it a communication (March 28, 2001) from Ms. Ann Dembinski, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79 requesting that the Community Services Committee support the efforts of CUPE and other community members to restore the Victoria Day Care and Family Services facility to its former capacity.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Committee received the aforementioned report and communication.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Ms. Ann Dembinski, President, CUPE Local 79; c. General Manager, Children's Services - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(e), Report No. 3)

5.9 Early Years Challenge Fund and Community Co-ordinator Program.

The Committee had before it a communication (February 21, 2001) from the Secretary, Board of Health advising that the Board of Health on February 19, 2001, had before it a report (February 6, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health with respect to a planning process related to the Early

Years Challenge Fund and related Community Co-ordinator program; outlining the actions taken by the Board; and forwarding such report to the Community Services Committee for information.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee received the aforementioned communication; and further directed that the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to provide the Community Services Committee with an update on the outcome of the application for funding from the provincial Early Years Challenge Fund.

(Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. Secretary, Board of Health - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(f), Report No. 3)

5.10 Children and Youth Action Committee - Change to Membership.

The Committee had before it a communication (March 7, 2001) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on February 27, 2001, recommended to the Community Services Committee, and Council, that the People for Education be deleted from the membership of the Children and Youth Action Committee.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Children and Youth Action Committee contained in the aforementioned communication from the City Clerk.

(Clause No. 5, Report No. 3)

5.11 Accreditation Report - Carefree Lodge Home for the Aged.

The Committee had before it a communication (February 16, 2001) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on February 16, 2001, adopted a report (February 2, 2001) from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, respecting the accreditation report for Carefree Lodge Home for the Aged, and wherein it recommended that:

- (1) this report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee for its information; and
- (2) the management, staff, and volunteers of Carefree Lodge be congratulated for their excellent achievements in quality care and service, as evidenced in the very complimentary report received from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Committee received the aforementioned communication and extended its congratulations to the staff, volunteers and Home Advisory Committee at Carefree Lodge.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged; Administrator, Carefree Lodge - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(g), Report No. 3)

5.12 Achievement of 2000 Operating Objectives - Homes for the Aged.

The Committee had before it a communication (February 16, 2001) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on February 16, 2001, received a report (February 6, 2001) from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, respecting the achievement of 2000 Operating Objectives, Homes for the Aged Division, and wherein it directed that the report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee for information.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(h), Report No. 3)

5.13 Toronto Housing Company Inc. - Board Vacancy.

The Committee had before it a report (March 6, 2001) from the Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Housing Company Inc., advising that the Board of Directors of the Toronto Housing Company on February 26, 2001, adopted a report (February 14, 2001) from the Chief Executive Officer wherein it recommended that the City be formally advised of the resignation of Ms. Sandy Nimmo, a Tenant Director, and that the Board resolved to fill the vacancy by appointing the CWTC nominee, Mr. Robert Nykor, to serve the balance of Ms. Nimmo's term.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Housing Company Inc. - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(i), Report No. 3)

5.14 Update on Shelter Service Issues.

The Committee had before it a report (March 16, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update in response to a number of issues raised with respect to shelter service in the hostel system, e.g., capacity/access issues, "No Shows", use of beds and mats, review of Hostel Standards, and services for individuals on the street; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Committee referred the aforementioned report back to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, with a request that she report on the following in conjunction with the Standards Review:

- (a) the estimated number of beds that remain unused in the shelter system, due to beds being reserved with no one showing up to utilize those beds;
(Motion by Councillor Duguid)
- (b) the viability of harmonizing, where possible, reporting practices and standard operating procedures in conducting bed registration, bed checks, time of curfew, a consistent definition and protocol with respect to "no shows", and the length of time that beds are held for those failing to return or new arrivals; **(Motion by Councillor Duguid, as amended by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (c) the effectiveness of the Street Helpline in providing access to available shelter beds, including possible options to bring more, if not all, shelters into the Street Helpline system, as well as options to better utilize technology to obtain more accurate and timely information on shelter bed

availability; and **(Motion by Councillor Duguid)**

- (d) the feasibility of developing a five-year strategic plan with respect to homelessness, such plan to include community input and how the City can respond. **(Motion by Councillor Mihevc)**

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(j), Report No. 3)

5.15 Update on the Federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

The Committee had before it a report (March 19, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the Federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI); and recommending that:

- (1) the Squeegee Working Youth Mobilization Program (SWYM) be funded through SCPI for 2001/2002, that Council approve annual project expenditures not to exceed \$550,127.00, at no net cost to the City of Toronto, subject to SWYM entering into the City's prototype SCPI contribution agreement, and that SCPI funds in the amount of \$137,500.00 be advanced to SWYM commencing April 1, 2001;
- (2) the Partners for Access and Identification Program (PAID) be funded through SCPI for 2001/2002; that Council approve annual project expenditures not to exceed \$552,622.00, at no net cost to the City of Toronto, subject to PAID (Neighbourhood Link) entering into the City's prototype SCPI contribution agreement, and that SCPI funds in the amount of \$127,773.00 be advanced to PAID commencing April 1, 2001;
- (3) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be delegated authority to enter into SCPI prototype contribution agreements with PAID (Neighbourhood Link) and SWYM (City of Toronto), as described in Recommendations Nos. (1) and (2);
- (4) the Commissioner's delegation of authority to execute SCPI prototype contribution agreements and advance funds to PAID and SWYM effective April 1, 2001, be

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confirmed;

- (5) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services report back in the fall of 2001 with a further update of SCPI initiatives and funding; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Committee:

- (a) recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report; granted the authority requested in Recommendation No. (3), due to the April 1, 2001 deadline, and requested the concurrence of Council in the action taken; and
- (b) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report directly to Council for its meeting on April 24, 2001, on:
 - (i) agencies that were denied Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) youth employment services due to SCPI funding, and are now being denied SCPI funding because they do not meet HRDC's SCPI funding criteria (e.g., Kensington Youth Theatre and Employment Skills (KYTES) #59); and
 - (ii) the progress of negotiations with HRDC on allowing Rent Bank loans to be covered under SCPI funding.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support; Ms. Pam Campbell, Shelter, Housing and Support Division - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 3)

5.16 Update on the Tent City Situation and Future Directions Using Prefabricated and/or Manufactured Structures and Transitional Housing.

The Committee had before it a report (March 21, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and

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Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the progress in responding to Council's recommendations regarding the Tent City situation; outlining the short-term strategy to manage issues that may arise; proposing future directions related to prefabricated and/or manufactured transitional housing; and recommending that:

- (1) staff continue to work with the people at Tent City, Home Depot, community-based agencies and shelter staff to manage issues which may arise and provide supports that individuals may require, and that a staff person be designated as the contact and co-ordinator of these services and supports;
- (2) staff be directed to pursue the development of a public private partnership to pilot the use of prefabricated and/or manufactured housing as transitional housing, including, if required, issuing a special RFP;
- (3) any pilot project using prefabricated and/or manufactured housing as transitional housing result in no net costs to the City;
- (4) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services report back to the Community Services Committee on the progress of developing the pilot; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Committee also had before it during consideration of the foregoing matter a communication (March 27, 2001) from Councillor Jack Layton, Co-Chair, Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons, advising that the Advisory Committee on March 23, 2001, fully supported the recommendations contained in the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services.

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

- Mr. Vance Latchford, Latchford Associates;
- Ms. Cathy Crowe, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, and submitted a brief in regard thereto;
- Mr. Barry Burnett, Buttcon Limited;

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- Mr. John van Nostrand, Architects Alliance, and showed preliminary plans for the proposed pilot project;
- Mr. John Sewell, and submitted a draft motion for consideration by the Community Services Committee; and
- Mr. Cliff Martin, Social Housing Advocacy Network.

The Committee:

- (1) recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with other appropriate departmental staff (e.g., Commissioner of Corporate Services, Commissioner of Urban Development Services and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer), be requested to:
 - (i) report directly to Council for its meeting on April 24, 2001, seeking approvals to immediately undertake the Request for Proposals that would encourage private investors to enter into arrangements with the City of Toronto and its agencies to provide new housing on land that meets environmental regulations at no cost to the City, at City locations, such as 480-520 Lakeshore Boulevard East and 525 Commissioners Street, and other sites proposed by staff; and further that such report include proposals on the following matters:
 - (a) suggestions on expediting processing of required land use approvals;
 - (b) the opportunity of providing hard services, such as water, sewage and electricity, under the Local Improvement Act;
 - (c) a time-line that would see replacement housing available before the end of the summer, 2001;

- (d) proposals regarding land disposition, such as leasing the land for a period of at least ten years, for example, to permit expenditures to be recouped;
 - (e) suggestions on methods of dealing with the development charge being levied by the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and, if applicable, the development charge levied by the City; and
 - (f) comments on the likely property taxes applying to the development;
- (ii) make use of the resources that have been organized by the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee and Tent City residents involving private funding in the preparation of the Request for Proposals report; and

(Motions (1) to (2)(ii) by Councillor Walker)

- (iii) report to the Community Services Committee in more detail clarifying the objectives of the pilot project. **(Motion by Councillor Hall)**

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Commissioner of Urban Development Services; Commissioner of Corporate Services; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; All Interested Parties; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 3)

5.17 Governance Review - Homes for the Aged.

The Committee had before it a report (March 19, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising that a planned review of the governance structure of Homes for the Aged is being undertaken, with the objective of exploring options for:

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- governance and organizational structure that maintain strong public sector presence in long term care and sustain and/or enhance quality at a lower cost; and
- continuous improvement in both organizational effectiveness and quality of service;

noting that the cost of the review (up to a maximum of \$60,000.00) will be funded from the 2000 budget of the Chief Administrative Officer's amalgamation office; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Homes for the Aged - March 29, 2001)

(Clause No. 8(k), Report No. 3)

5.18 Impact of Strike at the Toronto District School Board on Child Care Services Located in School Facilities.

The Committee had before it a report (March 26, 2001) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services outlining the anticipated service and financial impacts of the potential strike by CUPE Local 4400 on the provision of children's services in school facilities; and recommending that:

- (1) in the event that a strike at Toronto District School Board (TDSB) forces the relocation of child care programs, City staff review the expenditures of child care programs serving subsidized children, identify those additional costs eligible for payment and recommend a one-time adjustment in payment in accordance with existing guidelines;
- (2) the City reduce its occupancy cost payments to the TDSB on behalf of child care programs to reflect the number of days these programs are denied access to school premises as a result of a strike;

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- (3) subject to provincial cost-sharing, the payment of the City's portion of the one-time adjustments to which subsidized child care programs are entitled, be funded from the money dedicated to school occupancy costs within the 2001 Children's Services budget request; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 3)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Chair.