

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Community Services Committee

Meeting 8

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The Community Services Committee met on Thursday, October 7, 2004, in Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

Members Present:

9:40 a.m. - 12:46 p.m.

Councillor Olivia Chow		X
Councillor Raymond Cho	X	
Councillor Gay Cowbourne		X
Councillor Norm Kelly		X
Councillor Joe Mihevc		X
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong	X	
Councillor David Shiner	X	

Regrets:

Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti

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

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on September 9, 2004, were confirmed.

**8.1 Renewal of Purchase of Service Agreement -
St. John Ambulance, Toronto District**

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 24, 2004) from the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services respecting the renewal of the Purchase of Service Agreement with St. John Ambulance, Toronto District.

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Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) City of Toronto Council approve the Purchase of Service Agreement with St. John Ambulance, Toronto District for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005;
- (2) the Chief and General Manager of Toronto Emergency Medical Services be authorized to renew the Purchase of Service Agreement on an annual basis, subject to a termination clause that can be exercised by either party with 30 days' written notice;
- (3) the funding formula for direct billings and, further, the formula established for in-kind services provided by Toronto EMS to St. John Ambulance be approved;
- (4) St. John Ambulance resources be made available to Toronto EMS and the City of Toronto in the event of a major community incident through established protocols;
- (5) authority be granted to allow St. John Ambulance the right of first refusal to purchase vehicles and equipment declared surplus by Toronto EMS based on the history of the last auction price; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be given the authority to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report.

Report 7, Clause 1

8.2 911 Multilingual Services Communications Plan (All Wards)

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 23, 2004) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services responding to the Council directive to report on an ongoing

communications strategy to educate all Toronto residents, especially recent immigrants, of the availability of 911 emergency services in multiple languages.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that City Council approve the communications plan, outlined in “Appendix 1: Toronto 911 Multilingual Services Communications Plan” attached to this report, as a means of fostering awareness among Toronto residents, businesses and visitors of the availability of 911 emergency services in more than 150 languages.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Committee recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendation in the Recommendations Section of the report.

Report 7, Clause 3

8.3 Breaking the Cycle of Violence Grants Program - 2005 Program Update

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 22, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the priorities for the 2005 Breaking the Cycle of Violence Grants Program and ongoing improvements to the Program.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the 2005 Breaking the Cycle of Violence priorities include funding for violence prevention projects for youth in the neighbourhoods of Jamestown, Jane/Finch, Malvern and Kingston/Galloway; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Community Services Committee also considered a brief (October 7, 2004) from Syeda Rahman, Executive Director, North York Multicultural Counseling and Education Centre.

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The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee:

- Winston La Rose, Jane/Finch Concerned Citizens Organization;
- Marlon McLean, RISE; and
- Patricia Keith, Break Free Counselling Services.

The Community Services Committee:

- (a) recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 22, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, subject to amending Recommendation (1) to read as follows:

“(1) the 2005 Breaking the Cycle of Violence priorities include a maximum of one-third of the funding for violence prevention projects for youth in the neighbourhoods of Jamestown, Jane/Finch, Malvern and Kingston/Galloway; and”;

(Motion by Councillor Shiner)

- (b) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to submit a report to the Community Services Committee, for consideration during the 2005 budget process, on a recommended level of funding for the Breaking the Cycle of Violence Community Partnership Program to address the estimated unmet needs; and

(Motion by Councillor Chow)

- (c) requested the Corporate Grants Team to report to the appropriate committee on the renaming of the various City grants programs consistent with the Council direction in July 2004 changing the name of the “Consolidated Grants Program” to “Community Partnership and Investment Program”.

(Motion by Councillor Mihevc)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Corporate Grants Team; All Interested Parties - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 4

8.4 Administration of the Toronto Youth Job Corps and Youth Employment Toronto Programs

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 23, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the administration of the Toronto Youth Job Corps and Youth Employment Toronto Programs; advising of changes in administrative and funding agreement requirements of Human Resources Skills Development Canada and potential implications for current City-Federal program partnerships; and providing an update on the impact of the closure of Youth Clinical Services.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to carry out a request for proposal for delivery of the Toronto Youth Job Corps Program in order to comply with current Human Resources Skills Development Canada directives;
- (2) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to enter into a service agreement with the successful proponents provided they comply with all applicable requirements under the purchase of service agreement, the agreements shall be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and contain such other items and conditions as he may deem advisable and the agreements are within the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services delegated approval limits;
- (3) the City reimburse employers who hosted youth in placements through Youth Clinical Services for unpaid wage subsidy, using funds available within the approved 2004 Toronto Youth Job Corps program budget, not to exceed \$17,520.00; and

- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report.

Report 7, Clause 5

8.5 Personal Health Information Protection Act 2004

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 17, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting new provincial legislation, entitled "*Personal Health Information Protection Act 2004*" (PHIPA), which comes into effect on November 1, 2004; and advising of the work done to achieve a state of readiness to effectively manage PHIPA within those City operations that will be affected by the legislation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) staff within the City operating divisions which are deemed to be health information custodians (HICs) as defined in the *Personal Health Information Protection Act 2004* (PHIPA) be authorized to implement revised communication and work processes as outlined in the body of this report; and
- (2) staff be authorized to identify and include detailed resource implications related to the implementation of PHIPA for consideration in the 2005 budget deliberations.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee:

- (i) recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 17, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; and
- (ii) requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Board of Health for information.

(Board of Health; c. Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
General Manager, Homes for the Aged - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 6

8.6 Homes for the Aged - Community-Based Services Furnishings and Equipment

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 23, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to a request to report back to the Budget Advisory Committee and Community Services Committee on a multi-year financial plan for funds currently held in the HFA Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Council establish a Cost Centre called 'HFA Community-Based Services', within the Community Initiatives Reserve Fund, to be used to purchase furnishings, equipment and amenities as required by the Homes for the Aged community-based programs;
- (2) Municipal Code Chapter 227 (Reserves and Reserve Funds) be amended by adding the 'Homes for the Aged Community-Based Services' cost centre to Schedule 6 - Community Initiatives Reserve Fund;
- (3) funds totalling \$1,700,000.00 plus applicable interest be transferred from the HFA Capital Reserve into a new HFA Community-Based Services Cost Centre within the Community Initiatives Reserve Fund; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, and that leave be granted for the introduction of any necessary bills in Council to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Community Services Committee recommended to the Budget Advisory Committee that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report.

(Budget Advisory Committee; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 7(a)

8.7 Barriers Facing Clients Applying For and Receiving Ontario Works

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 23, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to the request of the Committee on September 9, 2004, to report further on the key barriers single parents and other Ontario Works clients face when applying for and receiving OW.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information by the Community Services Committee.

The following persons gave a presentation on the barriers facing clients applying for and receiving Ontario Works:

- Heather MacVicar, General Manager, Social Services;
- Maxine Rivers, Training Supervisor, Social Services Division;
- Jamie Austin, Program Policy Support, Research Development and Reporting, Social Services Division; and
- Jon Genovese, Case Worker, Social Services Division.

The Community Services Committee:

- (i) requested the Chair of the Community Services Committee to invite the appropriate Provincial MPPs, Federal MPs, Opposition spokespersons

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and Parliamentary Secretaries to a meeting of the Community Services Committee to discuss the Ontario Works Program and related issues;

(Motion by Councillor Kelly)

- (ii) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to undertake discussions with provincial staff on redesigning and rewriting all Ontario Works forms and letters in simple language at a Grade 4 level or less;

(Motion by Councillor Cowbourne)

- (iii) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services to report to the Community Services Committee on:
 - (a) the viability of producing all letters in five major languages, in addition to English and French;

(Motion by Councillor Cowbourne)

- (b) changes to the technical systems to permit the electronic filing of clients' files at the municipal level for more than 30 days;

(Motion by Councillor Shiner)

- (c) a recommendation on the length of time that files can be stored/retrieved, and on the rationale for keeping these files, i.e., cost-savings, etc.;

(Motion by Councillor Shiner)

- (d) the top ten basic changes to the Ontario Works system which would allow for the accessing of required financial disclosure yet improve the efficiency in cases where completing the prescribed application provides no benefit;

(Motion by Councillor Shiner)

- (e) within six months on:
- how the entire Ontario Works system could be improved;

(Motion by Councillor Cho)

- the financial impact caused by Federal immigration policy, including the potential benefits from the downloading of immigration selection to the Province, and the implications to the City of Toronto; and

(Motion by Councillor Cho, as amended by Councillor Minnan-Wong)

- the legality of providing summary information on the place of birth of immigrants on the caseload;

(Motion by Councillor Cho)

- (iv) received the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; and

(Motion by Councillor Shiner)

- (v) expressed its appreciation to staff for an excellent presentation.

(Motion by Councillor Chow)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Olivia Chow, Chair, Community Services Committee; c. General Manager, Social Services - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 7(b)

8.8 Final Update on 2002/03 Ontario Works Incentive Fund

The Community Services Committee considered a report (August 20, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the implementation and results of the 55 projects funded by the one-time provincial incentive funds received by Toronto Social Services in 2001 for exceeding Ontario Works placement targets.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information by the Community Services Committee.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee received the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Social Services - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 7(c)

8.9 Grants Program Support to Food and Hunger Initiatives

The Community Services Committee considered the following report and communication:

- (September 29, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the need for the creation of a grants program to support food and hunger action initiatives in 2005.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Community Services Committee endorse the design of a \$1 million food security grants program as described in this report and as recommended by the Food and Hunger Action Committee, with 10 percent of the fund applied to development support, 15 percent of the fund applied to short-term initiatives and small capital requests, 65 percent of the fund applied to ongoing food security programs, and a maximum of 10 percent of the fund applied to fund administration;
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration during the 2005 budget process; and

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- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (September 24, 2004) from the Secretary, Board of Health advising that the Board on September 20, 2004, during consideration of a report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health on the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2004, referred the report to the Community Services Committee, through the Food and Hunger Action Committee, with a request that they renew their efforts to institute a permanent community grants stream to support neighbourhood-based food security initiatives.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee:

- (i) recommended to the Budget Advisory Committee that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 29, 2004) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; and
- (ii) requested the Corporate Grants Team to report to the appropriate committee on the renaming of the various City grants programs consistent with the Council direction in July 2004 changing the name of the "Consolidated Grants Program: to "Community Partnership and Investment Program".

(Budget Advisory Committee; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Corporate Grants Team; Medical Officer of Health - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 7(d)

8.10 Homeless Youth with Concurrent Disorders in Toronto

The Community Services Committee considered a communication (September 24, 2004) from the Board of Health forwarding, for information, a report dated September 1, 2004, from the Acting Medical Officer of Health on the work to date of the Homeless Youth with Concurrent Disorders Work Group; and outlining the action taken by the Board of Health.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Services Committee received

the report from the Board of Health.

(Medical Officer of Health - October 7, 2004)

Report 7, Clause 7(e)

8.11 Harmonization of Fire Routes By-laws

The Community Services Committee considered a report (September 30, 2004) from the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief and General Manager seeking approval for the harmonization of the fire route by-laws of the former six area municipalities of the former Metropolitan Toronto into a single by-law for the City of Toronto.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Council adopt the draft by-law attached as Appendix 'A' to this report;
- (2) the City Solicitor be authorized to introduce in Council a bill substantially in the form of the by-law attached as Appendix "A";
- (3) upon adoption of this by-law, the City of Toronto Municipal Code be amended by adding this by-law to the Code as Chapter 880, Fire Routes;
- (4) the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, be authorized and directed to make application to the Ministry of the Attorney General for set fines with respect to the above-noted proposed Code Chapter; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Community Services Committee recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report.

Report 7, Clause 2

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The Community Services Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Chair.