

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee

Meeting 1

Thursday, January 13, 2005

The Policy and Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 13, 2005, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

Attendance

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

	9:40 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.
Mayor David R. Miller, Chair	X
Councillor Maria Augimeri	X
Councillor Sandra Bussin	X
Councillor Gay Cowbourne	X
Councillor Mark Grimes	X
Councillor Pam McConnell	X
Councillor Howard Moscoe	X
Councillor Joe Pantalone, Vice-Chair	X
Councillor David Soknacki	X
Councillor Sylvia Watson	X

1-1. City of Toronto's Contribution to the Tsunami Disaster Relief

The Policy and Finance Committee considered a report (January 13, 2005) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services reporting on the City's contribution to the Canadian relief effort to aid regions affected by tsunamis in South-East Asia on December 26, 2004.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the City of Toronto continue to work with both the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to determine the City's contribution of staff expertise and financial assistance required to address the reconstruction and rebuilding needs of tsunami-stricken communities;

Policy and Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2005.

- (2) the City of Toronto enter into a technical exchange partnership, with a city determined to be most effectively helped by Toronto, under the auspices of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Technical Exchange Program and the Chief Administrative Officer report back on any related costs to participate in this program;
- (3) the Chief Administrative Office report back on the specific financial contribution of the City for the settlement and integration of refugee and immigrants from the tsunami affected regions, once it is fully known;
- (4) the Federal Government be requested to work in partnership with municipalities, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayor's Working Group on Immigration, on the development and implementation of the federal policy response to the tsunami disaster;
- (5) the call for staff volunteers be extended to the City's Agencies, Boards and Commissions;
- (6) the Chief Administrative Officer report through the Budget Advisory Committee for any requests for immediate settlement assistance that are related to the tsunami emergency;
- (7) the Chief Administrative Office and the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be directed to provide regular updates on the City's response to the tsunami disaster; and
- (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Policy and Finance Committee also considered a communication (January 7, 2005) from the Administration Committee advising that the Committee, among other things, recommended to the Budget Advisory Committee that City Council:

- (1) adopt the EMT recommended 2005 Operating Budget for Other - Council, and, further, that City Council direct that \$5,000.00 from the 2005 office budget of each Councillor be directed to the Canadian Red Cross for the Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund; and
- (2) adopt the EMT recommended 2005 Operating Budget for Other - Mayor's Office subject to, among other things, City Council directing that \$5,000.00 from the 2005 Mayor's Office budget be directed to the Canadian Red Cross for the Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund.

- 3 -
Policy and Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2005.

The Chief Administrative Officer and the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services gave a presentation to the Policy and Finance Committee and filed a copy of their presentation materials.

The following persons addressed the Policy and Finance Committee:

- Steven Christianson, MA, Government Relations Co-ordinator, Ontario March of Dimes;
- Dennis Fair, Director, Operations and Development Toronto, Canadian Red Cross;
- John Cartwright, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council and Jenny Ahn, President of CAW Local 40, and Executive Board Member of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, and filed a written submission;
- Karen Harrison, on behalf of the Toronto Buddhist Peace Fellowship and filed a written submission;
- Nathan Salothu, Toronto Tamil Seniors Association;
- Raj Selvanayagam, Tamil Regent Park Organization;
- Morisious Julius, Tamil Regent Park Cultural Organization;
- Satha Vivekananthan, Toronto East End Literacy Program Coordinator; and
- Hawaa Kabbashy.

The following Members of Council also addressed the Policy and Finance Committee:

- Councillor Shelley Carroll, Don Valley East;
- Councillor Raymond Cho, Scarborough-Rouge River;
- Councillor Janet Davis, Beaches-East York;
- Councillor Adam Giambrone, Davenport;
- Councillor Suzan Hall, Etobicoke North;
- Councillor Frances Nunziata, York South-Weston;
- Councillor Bill Saundercook, Parkdale-High Park; and
- Councillor Michael Walker, St. Paul's.

The Policy and Finance Committee:

- (I) recommended that City Council adopt the staff Recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (January 13, 2005) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services subject to amending Recommendation (1) to read as follows:
 - “(1) the City of Toronto continue to work with the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, local community organizations, and international organizations that the City has a relationship with, to determine the City’s contribution of staff expertise and financial assistance required to address the reconstruction and rebuilding needs of tsunami-stricken communities;”; **(Motion by Councillor McConnell on behalf of Councillor Davis)**

- (II) requested the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a report directly to Council for its meeting on February 1, 2005:
 - (i) outlining how much funding is needed from the Federal Government to assist the new immigrants/refugees arriving in the GTA as a result of the Tsunami disaster; **(Motion by Councillor Cowbourne on behalf of Councillor Cho)**

 - (ii) on ways that the City can get services and support immediately to members of our local communities who have suffered the tragic loss of their loved ones; such report to set out the protocol that Councillors should use to connect these services quickly to their constituents and to pass on community resources and individual skills to the Emergency Management Office; and also address ways in which the City can help communities in the family reunification process; and **(Motion by Councillor McConnell)**

 - (iii) on the suggestions offered by the speakers, especially those which will make the City’s efforts more effective and comprehensive; **(Motion by Deputy Mayor Pantalone)**

Policy and Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2005.

- (III) requested the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to submit a report directly to Council for its meeting on February 1, 2005, advising what administrative mechanisms should be put in place to enable employees of the City to voluntarily donate a vacation or lieu day to the Tsunami Disaster relief effort and to suggest how the funds from such donations might be deployed; **(Motion by Councillor Watson)**
- (IV) requested the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to review the quantum of the grants provided to the organizations providing specific assistance to the settlement of refugees from countries affected by the Tsunamis and submit a report thereon to the Budget Advisory Committee; **(Motion by Councillor Moscoe)**
- (V) referred the following motion by Councillor Cowbourne on behalf of Councillor Cho to the Mayor's Office:

That the Mayor be requested to:

- (i) schedule a special meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on the issue of Tsunami Relief; and
- (ii) invite the Federal Ministers of Citizenship and Immigration and National Defence to the aforementioned special meeting to make a presentation on this matter and to listen to speakers from the City of Toronto; and **(Referral motion moved by Councillor Soknacki)**
- (VI) received the communication (January 7, 2005) from the Administration Committee. **(Motion by Councillor Moscoe)**

A recorded vote on the adoption of the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (January 13, 2005) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, as amended, was as follows:

FOR: Mayor Miller, Augimeri, Bussin, Cowbourne, Grimes, McConnell, Moscoe, Pantalone, Soknacki

AGAINST: Nil

The following motions were also moved at the meeting and dealt with as follows:

Motion by Councillor Moscoe:

“That the Policy and Finance Committee request the Chief Administrative Officer to report directly to Council for its meeting on February 1, 2005, on how the City can support the March of Dimes’ efforts to collect assistive devices.” **(Motion declared by the Chair to be redundant)**

Councillor Grimes on behalf of Councillor Walker

“That the Policy and Finance Committee recommend to Council that:

- (1) City Council approve a contribution of \$1 million dollars on behalf of the citizens of Toronto for direct South Asia relief due to the Tsunamis;
- (2) this \$1 million dollar donation be distributed through established relief agencies;
- (3) this donation be deemed in the interest of the municipality; and
- (4) a copy of this Motion be distributed to all municipalities with a population greater than 50,000.” **(Lost on the following recorded vote:**

FOR: Nil

AGAINST: Mayor Miller, Augimeri, Bussin, Cowbourne, Grimes, McConnell, Moscoe, Pantalone, Soknacki)

Motion by Councillor Grimes on behalf of Councillor Nunziata:

“That the Policy and Finance Committee advise the Budget Advisory Committee that it endorses the following recommendations of the Administration Committee that City Council:

- (1) adopt the EMT recommended 2005 Operating Budget for Other - Council, and, further, that City Council direct that \$5,000.00 from the 2005 office budget of each Councillor be directed to the Canadian Red Cross for the Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund; and

Policy and Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2005.

- (2) adopt the EMT recommended 2005 Operating Budget for Other - Mayor's Office subject to, among other things, City Council directing that \$5,000.00 from the 2005 Mayor's Office budget be directed to the Canadian Red Cross for the Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund.” **(Motion declared by the Chair to be redundant.)**

(Budget Advisory Committee – January 13, 2005)

(Clause 1 - Report 1)

The Policy and Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Chair.