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February 19, 2007

**To:** Budget Committee

**From:** Community Development and Recreation Committee

**Subject:** Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program

**The Community Development and Recreation Committee on February 19, 2007, forwarded a copy of the report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to the February 23, 2007, meeting of the Budget Committee for its immediate consideration and transmittal of comments to the March 5 and 6, 2007, Council meeting for consideration with this item.**

Committee Recommendations:

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommended to City Council that:

1. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in consultation with the City Solicitor, be authorized to enter into a contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity for funding under the new Homelessness Partnering Strategy, and that the objectives, priorities and allocation levels, substantially as outlined in the report and summarized in Appendix A form the basis for the agreement, subject to adding child welfare agencies to Appendix A;
2. once the contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity is in place, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to enter into agreements with other City divisions, project sponsor agencies, and/or private expertise to deliver projects in line with the terms and conditions of the federal agreement, other than new housing development projects, which will be approved through the Affordable Housing Committee and Council;
3. once the contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity is in place, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to adjust funding between objectives as may be required to ensure maximum and appropriate use of

available federal funds and to reflect input from community consultation, new Council directions/priorities or other changes which might occur in the future and result in adjustments being required;

4. any project currently funded under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) program that is not completed by March 31, 2007, be approved as a priority for funding under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS);
5. in light of the results of the City's 2006 Street Needs Assessment, indicating that 16% of the homeless population is Aboriginal, that 20% (net of administration) of the City's HPS allocation be directed to projects that address Aboriginal homelessness;
6. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration work directly with the Aboriginal community to develop priorities for the funds under the HPS program, identified in Recommendation 5;
7. in the event that the current SCPI funds are not extended beyond March 31, 2007 by the last day of the City Council meeting in March 2007, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to fund the existing SCPI funded service related projects delivered by community agencies, as outlined in Appendix B, for the three-month period April 1 through June 30, 2007, at a cost of up to \$1.6 million from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund;
8. if the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund is utilised as recommended above, that the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration seek reimbursement for this expenditure from the federal government, under the new Homelessness Partnering Strategy with funds returned to source;
9. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration report directly to Council on any further financial implications relating to the transition between the SCPI and HPS programs, as required;
10. in the event that the current SCPI funding is extended beyond March 31, 2007, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to approve allocations of any unexpended SCPI funding to projects and initiatives that are in line with the objectives of the SCPI Community Plan, and to enter into any necessary agreements to give effect thereto; and
11. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration report to Budget Committee on the financial implications of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and possible extension of the current SCPI program once details are known.

Background:

The Community Development and Recreation Committee on February 19, 2007, considered a report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, submitting recommendations respecting “Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program.”

The following persons addressed the Community Development and Recreation Committee:

- Carolann Barr, Youthlink;
- Joe Hester, Anishnawbe Health Toronto; and
- Ann Fitzpatrick, Children Aid Society of Toronto.

Councillor Joe Mihevc, St. Paul’s, declared his interest in Recommendation 7 of the report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in that his spouse works with the East York East Toronto Family Resources.

City Clerk

Candy Davidovits/lv  
Item CD2.1

Attachment

- c. General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration