

Neighbourhood Action – Councillor Protocol

Date:	November 19, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends adoption of a protocol for Councillor engagement in Neighbourhood Action work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that:

1. the Neighbourhood Action - Councillor Protocol in appendix A be adopted.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts arising from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

On receiving a staff presentation on “Partnership Initiatives and Achievements in the Priority Neighbourhoods,” on October 9th, 2007, the Community Development and Recreation Committee directed staff to report on a Councillor communication and engagement protocol for Neighbourhood Action work in priority neighbourhoods.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Neighbourhood Action is a strategy directed by the Community Safety Plan and Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy to support new investments in priority neighbourhood areas. The following objectives guide Neighbourhood Action work: increased community infrastructure; leveraging investment on City assets; building resident and community capacity; and increased resident engagement.

COMMENTS

City staff have developed Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs) in all priority neighbourhoods. NATs are inter-divisional staff teams composed of City local service managers. Core divisional and City board participation includes: Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Children's Services; Parks, Forestry & Recreation; City Planning; Shelter, Support & Housing Administration; Social Development, Finance & Administration; Toronto Social Services; Toronto Community Housing Corporation; Toronto Police Service; Toronto Public Health; and Toronto Public Library. NATs are a staff level activity and apolitical in nature. The purpose of NATs are to ensure cross divisional knowledge leading to better horizontal needs identification, service planning and city service delivery at the neighbourhood level.

In many of the priority neighbourhoods NATs are now developing into Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs). NAPs are a broader initiative designed to build engagement with multiple stakeholders at the neighbourhood level. NAPs will ideally include the involvement of residents, local agencies, other orders of government, community funders, school boards and local businesses. As NAPs evolve to broader partnerships, the scope of needs identification and service planning and coordination will expand. The NAPs provide an opportunity to identify, initiate and manage partnerships that create new infrastructure in priority neighbourhoods leveraging off both City and non-City assets.

NATs and NAPs are facilitated by Social Development Finance and Administration staff (Community Development Officers) and a leadership group of Director level staff from the participating divisions and City boards.

In order to ensure clarity with respect to local Councillor involvement with Neighbourhood Action a Councillor protocol has been developed. The protocol identifies the role of City staff in ensuring Councillors are informed of Neighbourhood Action work, Neighbourhood Action Partnership meetings and opportunities for Councillors to engage in neighbourhood action initiatives as the political voice of the City at the neighbourhood level.

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SIGNATURE

Executive Director,
Social Development, Finance and Administration

APPENDIX A

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION – COUNCILLOR PROTOCOL

BACKGROUND

Neighbourhood Action is a strategy directed by the Community Safety Plan and the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy and designed to increase community infrastructure, programs and services in priority neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Action Teams:

City staff have initiated Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs) in all 13 priority neighbourhoods. NATs are inter-divisional staff teams composed of local service managers. NATs are a staff level activity and apolitical in nature. The purpose of NATs are to ensure cross divisional knowledge leading to better city services at the neighbourhood level.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships:

In many of the priority neighbourhoods NATs are now developing into Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs). NAPs are a broader initiative designed to build engagement with multiple stakeholders at the neighbourhood level. NAPs may include resident, local agency, other government, united way and school board involvement. The NAPs provide an opportunity to identify, initiate and manage partnership initiatives that create new infrastructure in priority neighbourhoods.

Both NATs and NAPs are facilitated by Social Development Finance and Administration staff (Community Development Officers) and a Director level staff from various divisions.

Neighbourhood Action will not work without active involvement by local Councillors. In order to ensure local Councillor involvement, the following protocol has been established.

COUNCILLOR PROTOCOL:

1. Staff will brief Councillors on a monthly basis (or more as requested by the Councillor).
2. Councillors will be advised of all NAP meetings to facilitate participation by the Councillor or staff of the Councillor's Office.
3. Minutes from all NAP meetings will be circulated to Councillors.
4. Staff will advise Councillors of opportunities to engage in neighbourhood action initiatives/events as the political voice of the City.

