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October 16, 2008

To: Budget Committee

From: Community Development and Recreation Committee

Subject: 2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program.

Committee Recommendations:

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommended to the Budget Committee that:

- 1. Consistent with the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Toronto City Council request the incoming federal government, on an urgent basis, to maintain existing levels of federal homelessness funding beyond March 2009 as a bridge to a long-term national housing strategy that is ongoing, sustainable and indexed to the cost of living, and that includes a clear commitment to end homelessness.**
- 2. 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 a renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, or any new federal homelessness funding program.**
- 3. The General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to undertake appropriate measures to develop funding priorities for any renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, or other similar federal funding program, including seeking input from community consultation, and bring forward the funding priorities for approval by Council.**
- 4. 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.**

5. Based upon a finalized contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to undertake appropriate measures to establish sound budgetary priorities, adjust funding among programs as required to ensure effective use of available federal funds, and seek and draw upon input from community consultation, new Council directions/priorities, or other circumstances as might occur in the future, requiring expenditure adjustments.
6. Any project currently funded under the Homelessness Partnership Strategy that is not completed by March 31, 2009 be approved as a priority for funding under any new funding contract entered into under Recommendation 2.
7. In the event that the current Homelessness Partnering Strategy is not extended beyond March 31, 2009 by the last day of the City Council meeting in March 2009, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to fund existing HPS service-related projects delivered by community agencies, as outlined in Appendix B, as well as costs for administration for the three-month period April 1 through June 30, 2009, at a cost of up to \$2.9 million from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund.
8. If the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund is used as set out in Recommendation 7, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, seek reimbursement for this expenditure from the federal government, as part of a renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy, new homelessness funding arrangements, or other appropriate federal funding programs, with all recovered funds to be returned to source.
9. The General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, report directly to Council on any further implications relating to the renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy or the establishment of any new federal homelessness funding program, as required.
10. In the event that the current Homelessness Partnership Strategy funding is extended beyond March 31, 2009, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to approve allocations of any unexpended HPS funding to projects and initiatives that are in line with the objectives of the HPS Community Plan, and to enter into any necessary agreements to give effect thereto.
11. The General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, report to Budget Committee prior to March 31, 2009 on the financial implications of any renewal of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy or the initiation of any new federal homelessness funding program, upon receiving further information regarding the intentions of the incoming federal government relating to homelessness funding.

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Community Development and Recreation Committee requested the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to provide monthly actionable reports to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the status of this Program.

Background:

The Community Development and Recreation Committee on October 16, 2008, considered a report (October 1, 2008) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, respecting the “2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program”.

Background Information

cd19.6-Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-16085.pdf>)

Declared Interests

The following member(s) declared an interest:

Councillor Joe Mihevc - in that his spouse works with the East York East Toronto Family Resources.

City Clerk

Candy Davidovits/lv
Item CD19.6

c: General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration