

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Community Services Committee

Meeting No. 4

Thursday, May 1, 2003

The Community Services Committee met on Thursday, May 1, 2003, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:45 a.m.

Members Present: 9:45 a.m.-11:55 a.m.

Councillor Olivia Chow, Chair	x	
Councillor Maria Augimeri		x
Councillor Raymond Cho		x
Councillor Joe Mihevc	x	
Councillor Sherene Shaw		x
Councillor Michael Walker		x

Regrets:

Councillor Mario Silva
Councillor Michael Tziretas

Also Present:

Councillor Frank Di Giorgio
Councillor Pam McConnell

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

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on March 27, 2003, were confirmed.

4.1 Toronto Fire Services - Reflections on the Year 2002

The Committee had before it a joint report (April 16, 2003) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief and General Manager providing a copy of the Toronto Fire Services Reflections on the Year 2002; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services introduced Mr. William Stewart, the new Fire Chief and General Manager. Both the Commissioner and the Fire Chief and General Manager provided a verbal update on the fire and explosion at 3885-3887 Bloor Street West on April 24, 2003, which destroyed a two-story commercial/residential building causing the deaths of seven individuals and injuries to other individuals; indicated that the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team (HUSAR), made up of Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Divisions of the Works and Emergency Services Department, was deployed; that the HUSAR team has been trained to find people in collapsed structures using special equipment; advised that the Department supports the recommendation of the Works Committee that City Council support a coroner's inquest into the causes and circumstances of the accident; and noted that the community and business groups in the area were very supportive.

Councillor Chow appointed Councillor Augimeri Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee:

- (1) received the aforementioned joint report; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief and General Manager be requested to provide the Community Services Committee, as the first item of business at its next meeting to be held on June 5, 2003, with a presentation on the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team, including equipment used by the Team.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Fire Chief and General Manager; Chief and General Manager, Toronto Emergency Medical Services - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(a), Report No. 4)

Councillor Chow resumed the Chair.

4.2 Assembly Occupancy Safety Inspections by Toronto Fire Services

The Committee had before it a joint report (April 16, 2003) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief and General Manager providing information on the Assembly Occupancy Safety Inspections Program conducted by Toronto Fire Services; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee received the aforementioned joint report.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Fire Chief and General Manager - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(b), Report No. 4)

4.3 Toronto Emergency Medical Services - 2002 Quality Assurance Report

The Committee had before it a report (April 15, 2003) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services submitting, for information, the 2002 Quality Assurance Report for Toronto Emergency Medical Services.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Chief and General Manager, Toronto Emergency Medical Services - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(c), Report No. 4)

4.4 Cost of Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto, 2002

The Committee had before it a communication (April 17, 2003) from Councillor Pam McConnell, Co-Chair, Food and Hunger Action Committee advising that the Committee on April 16, 2003, had before it a report (February 10, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health, entitled "The Cost of Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto"; and that the Committee recommended to the Community Services Committee, and Council, the adoption of the following motion:

"That City Council appoint a delegation to include members of the Food and Hunger Action Committee to meet with the Provincial Ministers of Community, Family and Children's Services and Labour; that the delegation advise the Ministers that the provincially-mandated costing of a Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2002 indicated that the costs of frugal but nutritious foods had gone up 13 percent since 1999, and that this price increase compromised the health of many Toronto residents; and that the delegation advise the Ministers of the City of Toronto's views that the rates of social assistance and minimum wage, which have been frozen since 1995, need to be adapted to remain consistent with the rising cost of living."

Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Community Services Committee recommended to Council:

- (1) the adoption of the recommendation of the Food and Hunger Action Committee contained in the communication dated April 17, 2003, from Councillor Pam McConnell; and
- (2) that Council reaffirm its position and petition the Provincial Government to restore the 21.6 percent cutbacks applied to social assistance benefits in 1995, and then increase social assistance payments and the minimum wage by the rate of inflation for each year since 1995, up to and including the

year 2003.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 4)

**4.5 Ontario Works Benefit Rates:
Loss of Purchasing Power Since 1995**

The Committee had before it a communication (April 17, 2003) from the City Clerk advising that City Council on April 14, 15 and 16, 2003, struck out and referred back to the Community Services Committee for further consideration Clause No. 7 of Report No. 3 of The Community Services Committee, headed "Ontario Works Benefit Rates: Loss of Purchasing Power Since 1995", wherein it recommended that:

- (1) in light of the substantial reduction in purchasing power experienced by social assistance recipients since 1995, and the hardship that OW recipients living in Toronto face due to the City's high cost of living, City Council advocate that the Province significantly increase social assistance allowance rates to compensate for increases in the costs of shelter, food, transportation and other basic needs;
- (2) City Council endorse the "Ontario Child Supplement" proposal put forward by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- (3) this report be forwarded to the Minister of Community, Family and Children's Services; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto;

and further referred, for consideration therewith, Notice of Motion F(4) by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Moscoe, headed "Proposal for a Two-Year Rent Freeze", wherein it recommended as follows:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Toronto petition the Provincial Government to freeze rents for two years until there has been a fair review of the

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Tenant Protection Act and a levelling of the playing field in landlord-tenant relations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council continue to lobby the Provincial Government and the Opposition parties to adopt and publicly endorse this two-year rent freeze.”

together with a communication dated November 7, 2002, addressed to the Members of the Tenant Defence Sub-Committee, from Councillor Michael Walker.

Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

The Committee:

- (i) again recommended to Council:
 - (a) the adoption of the report dated March 6, 2003, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; **(Motion by Councillor Walker)**
 - (b) that Council reaffirm its position and petition the Provincial Government to restore the 21.6 percent cutbacks applied to social assistance benefits in 1995, and then increase social assistance payments and the minimum wage by the rate of inflation for each year since 1995, up to and including the year 2003; and **(Motion by Councillor Walker)**
 - (c) the adoption of Notice of Motion F(4), headed “Proposal for a Two-Year Rent Freeze”, by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Moscoe, wherein the operative paragraphs read as follows:

“NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Toronto petition the Provincial Government to freeze rents for two years until there has been a fair review of the Tenant Protection Act and a levelling of the playing field in landlord-tenant relations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council continue to lobby the Provincial Government and the Opposition parties to adopt and publicly endorse this two-year rent freeze.”; and

(Motion by Councillor Walker)

- (ii) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to invite Dr. Gina Brown of McMaster University to make a presentation to the Community Services Committee on her research relating to the cost to society with respect to poverty and lack of access to community and recreational programs. **(Motion by Councillor Chow)**

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale; c. General Manager, Social Services - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 4)

4.6 The Evolution of Ontario Works: Critical Issues for Service Delivery

The Committee had before it a report (March 5, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to City Council’s request in March 2002 to report regarding the operational and program impacts on the City resulting from the implementation of the Provincial Service Delivery Model; identifying and assessing the overall Provincial policy directions that have influenced the evolution of Ontario Works since its inception more than five years ago; providing a review of the main features of the current Ontario Works Program environment and the implications for the City; and recommending that:

- (1) Council endorse Toronto Social Services continuing efforts to streamline the delivery of

Ontario Works and obtain maximum value for the resources invested in the program by the City, consistent with the Province's stated goals for Ontario Works and with the legislation governing the program;

- (2) Council urge the Province to immediately provide municipal delivery agents with the flexibility to meet unique local client needs and respond to local labour market conditions as an essential prerequisite to achieving the Province's stated goals for the OW program; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 4)

4.7 Christmas Bureau 2002

The Committee had before it a report (April 9, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the activities and accomplishments of the City's 2002 Christmas Bureau Program administered by Toronto Social Services; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Augimeri, the Community Services Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Social Services - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(d), Report No. 4)

4.8 Final Report for Toronto Response for Youth

The Committee had before it a report (April 10, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the successful completion of the Toronto Response for Youth (TRY) project; and recommending that:

- (1) the City provide advice and technical support to MENTORS (Muslim Educators Network and Outreach Services) in the development of future TRY projects;
- (2) this report to be forwarded to the Ministry of Human Resources Development Canada; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Shaw, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 5, Report No. 4)

4.9 Update on Ontario Works Incentive Fund Youth-At-Risk Initiatives

The Committee had before it a report (April 14, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing a status of the first round of youth-at-risk projects funded through Ontario Works (OW) incentive funds (2002-2003); and recommending that:

- (1) Council endorse the allocation process and criteria described in this report for the second round of youth-at-risk projects funded through the Ontario Works (OW) incentive fund (2004-2005); and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Shaw, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 6, Report No. 4)

4.10 Toronto-Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force

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The Committee had before it a communication (November 1, 2002) from Ms. Lobin Ling, Toronto-Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, advising that Mr. Michael Wilson, Chair of the Task Force would like to address the Committee on the work of the Task Force.

The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Michael Wilson, Chair, Toronto-Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force;
- Ms. Peggy Bimberg, Executive Director, Houselink Community Homes Inc.;
- Mr. Terry McCullum, Executive Director, Loft Community Services; and
- Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, and asked questions of the deputations.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee received the presentation by Mr. Wilson, and requested the Toronto-Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force to forward a copy of its report once it has been released publicly.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. Michael Wilson, Chair, Toronto-Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(e), Report No. 4)

4.11 Status of the Open Door Drop-In Program

The Committee had before it a report (April 8, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to the request of the Committee to provide an update on the status of tenancy of the Open Door Drop-In Centre; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

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- Mr. Michael Quiggin, Board Member, Open Door Centre;
- Mr. Wayne Skinner, Board Member, All Saints Church; and
- Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc (on behalf of Councillor McConnell, the Committee:

- (1) received the aforementioned report; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and appropriate staff be requested to:
 - (a) monitor the transition period to ensure the continuation of programs;
 - (b) evaluate the delivery of such programs; and
 - (c) work with All Saints Church Community Centre to ensure the highest standard of service delivery.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale; Mr. Michael Quiggin; Mr. Wayne Skinner; Mr. Enrique Robert; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(f), Report No. 4)

**4.12 Update on Central Neighbourhood House Drop-In at
60 Richmond Street East (Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale)**

The Committee had before it a report (April 15, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the Central Neighbourhood House Drop-in program at 60 Richmond Street East; and recommending that:

- (1) Council approve one time funding of \$50,000.00 from the 2002 City of Toronto Homeless

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Initiatives appeals fund for Central Neighbourhood House to maintain the current level of drop-in services at 60 Richmond Street East until June 20, 2003;

- (2) a review of the programs at the 60 Richmond Street East site be conducted on a priority basis; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The following person appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Ms. Kerry McQuaig, Central Neighbourhood House;
- Ms. Kelly O'Sullivan;
- Mr. Michael DesRoches, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty; and
- Councillor Pam McConnell, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc (on behalf of Councillor McConnell), the Community Services Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report, subject to amending Recommendation No. (2) to read as follows:

- “(2) a review of the programs at the 60 Richmond Street East site be conducted on a priority basis; that such review ensure a 24-hour, 7-day a week service; and that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be given discretion to continue the service until such time as the report on the review comes forward;”.

(Clause No. 7, Report No. 4)

4.13 Update on the Tenant Support Grants Program

**Under the Tenant Defence Fund and Trends in
Applications for Above-Guideline Rent Increases and
Appeals to the Divisional Court on Related Tribunal Orders**

The Committee had before it a report (April 17, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the Tenant Support Grants Program under the Tenant Defence Fund and analysis of trends in above-guideline rent increases and appeals to the Divisional Court on Tribunal Orders; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 10(g), Report No. 4)

Councillor Augimeri moved that the Committee meet privately to discuss the confidential joint report of the City Solicitor and Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, headed "Update Regarding the Status of Litigation with The Learning Enrichment Foundation", having regard that the matter relates to the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, in accordance with the Municipal Act.

The Committee recessed at 11:50 a.m. to meet in camera to consider the aforementioned matter.

Members Present:

Councillor Olivia Chow, Chair
Councillor Maria Augimeri
Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Joe Mihevc
Councillor Michael Walker

Also Present:

Councillor Frank Di Giorgio
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski

The Committee adjourned its private meeting at 11:55 a.m., and immediately reconvened in public session with the foregoing members in attendance.

**4.14 Update Regarding the Status of Litigation with
The Learning Enrichment Foundation**

The Committee had before it a communication (April 17, 2003) from the City Clerk advising that City Council on April 14, 15 and 16, 2003:

- (a) struck out and referred back to the Community Services Committee for further consideration Clause No. 24 of Report No. 3 of The Community Services Committee, headed "Update Regarding the Status of Litigation with The Learning Enrichment Foundation", wherein it recommended the adoption of a confidential joint report dated March 11, 2003, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the City Solicitor, having regard that the subject matter relates to the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege; and
- (b) requested the City Solicitor to:
 - (1) meet with the solicitor for the Learning Enrichment Foundation, and submit a report thereon to the next regular meeting of Council scheduled to be held on May 21, 2003; and
 - (2) provide the Learning Enrichment Foundation's Statement of Claim and the City of Toronto's counterclaim to Members of Council upon request.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Community Services Committee directed that the aforementioned communication and the confidential joint report dated March 11, 2003, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the City Solicitor be submitted to Council without recommendation, with a request that it be considered with the report requested of the City Solicitor to be submitted directly to the May 21, 2003, meeting of Council.

(Clause No. 9, Report No. 4)

4.15 Technical Amendment to Council Authority for Let's Build Requests for Proposals Processes for Sites in the Railway Lands - Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

The Committee had before it a report (March 21, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising of the need for a technical amendment to the Council Authority to conduct a Requests for Proposals process for affordable housing on various City properties in the Railway Lands; and recommending that:

- (1) Recommendation No. (2) of Clause No. 17 of Report No. 6 of The Community Services Committee, adopted by Council at its meeting held on June 18, 19 and 20, 2002, be amended by deleting the words "no later than December 2002"; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 8, Report No. 4)

4.16 Shelter, Housing and Support Division Activities Related to SARS

The Committee had before it a report (April 30, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the Shelter, Housing and Support Division's activities related to SARS; and recommending that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services report to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee on actions taken to respond to the motions made at the Special Meeting of Council on April 24, 2003, referring to SARS and the drop-in

and shelter systems; and

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

The Committee:

- (1) adopted the aforementioned report and directed that it be forwarded to Council for information; (**Motion by Councillor Chow**)
- (2) directed that the City Solicitor submit a report as soon as possible to the SARS Advisory Task Force to the Mayor, and directly to Council for its meeting on May 21, 2003, on the ability to obtain funding from the Federal Government under its Emergency Preparedness legislation, or any other Federal legislation or program, to assist Toronto following its recent outbreak of SARS; and (**Motion by Councillor Chow**)
- (3) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to develop an Infectious Diseases Preparedness Plan that would accommodate from small to large scale numbers of people, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee, such report to include the Federal and Provincial role in this regard. (**Motion by Councillor Mihevc**)

(City Solicitor; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Medical Officer of Health; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - May 1, 2003)

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 4)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 11:56 p.m.

Chair.