
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM11.13	ACTION			Ward:All
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Budget Adjustments to the Public Health 2011 Approved Operating Budget (EX7.18) Removal of the Matter from Executive Committee - by Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** The Executive Committee currently has jurisdiction for this subject matter. A two thirds vote is required to remove Item EX7.18 from the Committee's jurisdiction.*

Recommendations

Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council approve adjustments to the 2011 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget, as follows:
 - a. An increase of \$170.0 thousand gross and \$0.0 net and an increase of two full-time Public Health Nurse (PHN) positions to reflect the new ongoing Provincial 100% base funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; and
 - b. The annual expenditures by Toronto Public Health for the two new nursing positions not to exceed the available Provincial funding for these nurses in any given year.

Summary

The Executive Committee at its meeting of June 20, 2011 passed a motion to defer indefinitely Item EX7.18, Budget Adjustments to the Toronto Public Health 2011 Approved Operating Budget. (Item BU12.17).

The indefinite deferral by Executive Committee of Item EX7.18 on June 20 results in the Board of Health for the City of Toronto not being able to secure 100% ongoing base funding from the Province of Ontario for two Public Health Nurses. The budget adjustment for Toronto Public Health for this year would be \$170,000 gross, \$0 net.

These positions would be used in low-income, high-need areas of the City with large numbers of new immigrants and residents with elevated rates of many chronic diseases. These populations would benefit from additional information about local health promotion and disease prevention services. In particular the positions would focus on increased prevention initiatives related to heart disease, stroke and diabetes, and on increasing immunization rates among newcomers to the City and their children.

The decision of the Executive Committee on September 6, 2011 (EX9.9) to recommend to Council that the Toronto Public Health 2011 Approved Operating Budget be adjusted to add three new full-time Public Health Nurses, funded 100% provincially on an ongoing basis, to support the Toronto Bed Bug project, indicates that it would be the appropriate time to reconsider the budget adjustments for the two additional full-time Nursing positions previously offered by the Province.

City Council should undertake this reconsideration on the basis of new information pertinent to the issue, namely, the approval by the Executive Committee of item EX9.9 on September 6, 2011.

"An increase of \$255.1 thousand gross and \$0.0 net and an increase of three contracted Public Health Nurse (PHN) positions to reflect the new 100 percent base funding from the MOHLTC. No incremental expense shall be incurred for overhead, administration or logistical support for these positions beyond the allocated amount from the province. These positions will be eliminated immediately upon the cessation of 100% provincial funding."

Facts related to this issue:

1. The 100% funding covers all salaries and benefits for two new nursing positions.
2. The 100% funding is ongoing.
3. If, for any unforeseen reason, the funding was eliminated, the positions would be eliminated also.
4. If, for any unforeseen reason, the funding was reduced or frozen, Toronto Public Health expenditures for the two positions would be similarly reduced or frozen.
5. The 100% funding is available for new full time nursing positions only.
6. The two full time nursing positions have been offered to all 36 boards of health in Ontario. To date, no other municipality has refused to accept the two nurses, and none are expected to do so.
7. The two nursing positions are funded from the same provincial program envelope as three new full-time nursing positions for the Bed Bug programs which are recommended for Council approval in EX 9.9.
8. Toronto residents contribute a large percent of the revenue received by the provincial government. If Council does not overturn the Executive Committee decision, tax revenue from Toronto will be used to help fund additional nurses everywhere else in Ontario except in Toronto.
9. In 2010, City Council accepted \$44.4 million in 100% provincially-funded staff and programs. These programs provide dental treatment for children whose families can't afford it (Healthy Smiles), health promotion programs for new mothers (Healthy Babies,

Healthy Children), Pre-School Speech and Language programs, and other important public health services. These have, in the past, been routinely approved by the Board of Health, Budget Committee, Executive Committee and Council.

10. Not accepting 100% provincial funding for Toronto Public Health programs will either deprive Toronto residents of millions of dollars in necessary programs and services or will cost the City millions of dollars to pay the full cost itself.

Decision History

Executive Committee June 20, 2011

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.EX7.18>.

Letter from Budget Committee June 7, 2011

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-38952.pdf>.

-
Medical Officer Report to the Board of Health April 27, 2011 Budget Adjustments to the Toronto Public Health 2011 Approved Operating Budget

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-38311.pdf>.

-
Executive Committee September 6, 2011

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.EX9.9>

(Submitted to City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011 as MM11.13)