

Ex 23.15.9

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

2012 OCT 25 A 8:58

Council meeting, October 30-31, 2012

Agenda comments

Members of the MultiFaith Alliance to End Homelessness (MFATEH) strongly urge Councillors to **amend the recommendations in EX23.15 to include a motion that directs the City Manager to ensure that the Hardship Fund is fully funded in the 2013 City budget and that it continues to operate consistent with current City guidelines on an ongoing basis.**

Though we come from diverse faith backgrounds we share a belief in the dignity and worth of every person in our society. We therefore consider it our responsibility as individuals and as a city to apply values of sharing, fairness, equity and compassion in our actions.

It is hard to imagine residents with greater need for us to act on these values than those receiving Hardship Fund assistance. These are poor, sick and mainly elderly residents who don't qualify for social assistance and are unable to pay for critically needed medical supports such as medications, prosthetics and hospital beds. Lack of this help is potentially life threatening.

While funding for the Hardship Fund has continued to flow in 2012, there is uncertainty about the effect of the 2012 budget provision. The expectation is that the Fund will end in December. Councillors should not wait for 2013 budget discussions to save the Fund but should support this amendment now to prevent shutting down of the program.

The Hardship Fund costs only \$1 million, a pittance in the city budget, but is essential to a few of the most needy and vulnerable of our residents. Support for its continuance affirms our best values of respect, care and compassion for all our residents.

Please vote in favour of the above amendment to EX23.15 Changes to Provincial Funding Approaches for Homeless Prevention and Social Assistance Programs: Implementation Strategies and Issues.

Margaret Vandenbroucke
Advocacy Committee
MultiFaith Alliance to End Homelessness