

100 Resilient Cities Network - Chief Resiliency Officer

Date: November 14, 2016

To: Executive Committee

From: City Manager

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to create and initiate the recruitment process for a Chief Resiliency Officer (CRO) position within the City Manager's Office. The position is temporary for two years beginning in 2017 with salary and benefit costs offset by equivalent grant funding provided by the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), an initiative pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In 2015, the Environment & Energy Division submitted an application for funding to 100RC. In May 2016, Toronto was notified it has been selected to join 99 other global cities as part of the 100RC network. Toronto joined Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal as members of the Canadian cohort.

100RC was established to help cities around the world become more resilient to the social and economic challenges of the 21st century. 100RC supports resiliency efforts that respond not only to shocks such as extreme weather and terrorism but also to the stresses that weaken cities on a day-to-day or cyclical basis such as growing social inequity, aging infrastructure, housing and transportation challenges, and climate change. Cities within the network are provided with funding to hire a CRO as well as additional tools and resources to develop and implement a resilience strategy.

The CRO will report directly to the City Manager and will be responsible for the development of a resiliency strategy and to drive its implementation in co-ordination with City divisions, agencies and corporations, community-based partners and other key stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council approve an increase of one temporary position in the City Manager's Office 2016 Operating Budget for the creation of a Chief Resilience Officer, and authorize the City Manager to accept grants from the 100 Resilient Cities that provide funding equivalent to the salary and benefit costs for the position for a two-year period.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of the CRO position is fully funded by grants from 100RC. The grants will cover the direct costs of the salary and benefits for the position for a two-year period. The City will provide the facilities and equipment.

In addition, the City, through its participation in the 100RC network, will receive additional in-kind support, including access to experts and other service providers hired by 100RC to work directly with Toronto to assist with the development of a resiliency strategy.

In order to initiate recruitment for the position, this report recommends that Council approve an increase of one temporary position in the City Manager's Budget for a two-year period. The report also seeks authority for the City Manager to accept grants from 100RC to cover the salary and benefits costs for the CRO position that will be provided each year subject to the requirements of the 100RC grant agreement.

A funding request of \$0.276 million gross and \$0 net will be included for Council's consideration in the 2017 Operating Budget for the City Manager's Office.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In 2015, the City submitted an application to the 100RC to participate in the initiative and join the network of cities from around the globe. Letters of support from the Mayor and City Manager and a number of external organizations accompanied the City's application.

After a subsequent interview process with 100RC, the City received its acceptance into the 100RC Network in May 2016. City staff were advised that Toronto's selection was informed by its existing and demonstrated leadership toward incorporating resiliency across the organization.

COMMENTS

Toronto's application to participate in the 100RC was positioned around addressing existing stresses including: growing social inequality; rapid population growth in Toronto and the region; underdeveloped transit; housing issues; and aging infrastructure. These and other stresses are compounded by the associated impacts of extreme weather and climate change.

Participation in the 100RC presents a unique opportunity to access expertise and support (including financial) to advance work in these priority areas. A core element of this support includes funding to support the hiring of a CRO.

The CRO's primary responsibility will be to work with internal and external stakeholder to develop and guide implementation of a resilience strategy for Toronto to improve the City's ability to adapt and respond to the physical, social, and economic challenges of the 21st century.

To successfully do this, the CRO will need to interface with executive and managerial across the City as well as external agencies and community stakeholders. The 100RC initiative will also provide the CRO with opportunities to learn from and interact with the other 99 cities and their CROs who form part of the global network along with in-kind support from 100RC staff and partners from the private, public, academic and non-profit sectors.

A key aspect of this work will involve championing and managing an inclusive engagement process designed to inform the development of a resilience strategy. The 100RC process is not intended, to necessarily, create new programs and initiatives but rather to build upon successful existing programs and initiatives, with an aim to scale and enhance opportunities for cross-cutting and integrated resilience building that address more than one-challenge simultaneously.

The development of a job description and profile of the potential candidate is in process with Human Resources. Recruitment of the CRO is anticipated to begin before the end of 2016, with a candidate in place in early 2017.

Council will be updated and kept informed on the CRO's efforts through staff reports on specific project milestones, such as the development of the Toronto Resiliency Strategy, and through an annual progress report.

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SIGNATURE

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