



## **EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 20-002**

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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**Present:** Councillors E. Pauls (Chair), B. Clark, T. Jackson, S. Merulla, and N. Nann

**Absent with  
Regrets:** Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal

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### **THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 20-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

- 1. Correspondence from Janice Lewis-Deeley, Board President, Native Women's Centre, respecting Mountainview Emergency Shelter Operations (Added Item 5.3)**

That correspondence from Janice Lewis-Deeley, Board President, Native Women's Centre, respecting Mountainview Emergency Shelter Operations, be received and referred to staff for action and to report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee, and referred to the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee for information. (Added Item 5.3)

- 2. Deputy Fire Chief Appointment (HSC19005(b)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

That the By-law to Appoint a Deputy Fire Chief, attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC19005(b), which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be passed.

- 3. 2019 Ministry of Health Ambulance Service Review Findings (HSC20006) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

That Report HSC20006, respecting 2019 Ministry of Health Ambulance Service Review Findings, be received.

4. **Residential Care Facilities Subsidy Program (HSC19064(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.3)**

That Report HSC19064(a), respecting Residential Care Facilities Subsidy Program, be received.

5. **Social Assistance Rates (Item 8.1-8.3)**

WHEREAS, food costs have increased by 7.6% in 2019 and continue to rise;

WHEREAS, access to nutritious food is a key factor in maintaining health, enabling residents to and participate more actively in society; and

WHEREAS, social assistance has not kept pace with the actual rate of inflation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

(a) That the Mayor send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, requesting an assessment and adjustment to social assistance to reflect the Consumer Inflation Index, thereby creating a sustainable system process to accommodate the most vulnerable; and,

(b) That a copy of this letter be sent to all local MPPs.

6. **Menstrual Products Pilot (HSC20001) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)**

(a) That the 12-month Menstrual Products Pilot Project utilizing the following approaches be approved:

(i) Universal Approach - make menstrual products available in women's and universal washrooms in 5 recreation centres, one in each recreation district;

(ii) Targeted Approach - partnering with Hamilton Food Share and local food banks to distribute menstrual products through Food Share's existing network; and,

(b) WHEREAS, there are ongoing costs for **menstrual health** products for those receiving assistance through Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(i) That the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services advocating for an increase to the Basic Needs awards amount to cover costs for **menstrual health** products; and

- (ii) That a copy of this letter be sent to local MPPs.

**7. Allocation of Funds to Continue the Emergency Home Repair Program (HSC20003) (City Wide) (Item 10.2)**

- (a) That all uncommitted funds in the Hamilton Emergency Home Repair Reserve (#102045), including all interest earned or accrued, estimated to be \$65,000, be utilized for the Hamilton Emergency Home Repair Program (HEHRP) until fully exhausted; and
- (b) That all uncommitted funds in the Municipal Down Payment Assistance Program Reserve (#112009), including all interest earned or accrued and after the Trillium Benefit pay out, estimated to be \$300,000 to \$375,000, be transferred to the Hamilton Emergency Home Repair Reserve (#102045) to be utilized for the Hamilton Emergency Home Repair Program (HEHRP) and subsequently reserve #112009 be closed.

**8. School Board Labour Disruption (HSC20011) (City Wide) (Added Item 10.3)**

That Report HSC20011, respecting School Board Labour Disruption, be received.

**9. Ministry of Education Community Based Capital Project (CBCP) Funding - Bernie Morelli EarlyON Child and Family Centre (Item 11.1)**

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Education provides and approves funding for Community Based EarlyON and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP) projects;

WHEREAS, the repair costs for the former King George school, 77 Gage Avenue North, Hamilton, exceeded the approved provincial funding;

WHEREAS, the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, 876 Cannon Street East, Hamilton, is located in the same neighbourhood as the King George location and provides an opportunity to co-locate services for families;

WHEREAS, the funding for the EarlyON Child and Family Centre CBCP project located at the former King George school was deemed unneeded due to the extent of the repair costs; and,

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Education has agreed to allow the City of Hamilton to utilize the EarlyON Child and Family Centre portion of the King George CBCP funding towards the creation of an EarlyON Child and Family Centre at the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre;

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$510,000 be allocated from the Community Based Capital Project funding to Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre project account (6791841001) as approved by the Ministry of Education; and,
- (b) That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities be authorised and directed to execute any required agreements and ancillary documents in relation to funding the creation of an EarlyON Child and Family Centre at the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**5. COMMUNICATIONS (Items 5.2-5.3)**

**5.2 Correspondence respecting Employment Services Transformation**

5.2.a Correspondence from David Cronin, Director, Program Delivery Service Branch, Employment and Training Division, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, respecting Call for Proposal for Service System Managers, Employment Services Transformation

Recommendation: To be received.

5.2.b Correspondence from Susan Erwin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Assistance Programs Division, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, respecting Employment Services Transformation: Transition Planning for Prototype Regions

Recommendation: To be received.

5.3 Correspondence from Janice Lewis-Deeley, Board President, Native Women's Centre, respecting Mountainview Emergency Shelter Operations

Recommendation: To be received and referred to staff for action and to report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee, and referred to the Expanding Housing and Support

Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee  
for information.

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6.2)**

- 6.2 Susan Morgante, Hamilton Social Action Network, regarding the crisis in social assistance where there has been no cost of living increase in 2019 but there has been an increase of 7.6% in food costs - **WITHDRAWN**

**10. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10.3)**

- 10.3 School Board Labour Disruption (HSC20011) (City Wide)

The agenda for the February 20, 2020 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) January 16, 2020 (Item 4.1)**

The Minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**

**(i) Correspondence from the Honourable Minister Todd Smith, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, respecting the Poverty Reduction Strategy Survey (Item 5.1)**

The Correspondence from the Honourable Minister Todd Smith, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, respecting the Poverty Reduction Strategy Survey, was received.

**(ii) Correspondence respecting Employment Services Transformation (Added Items 5.2.a and 5.2.b)**

The following correspondence, respecting Employment Services Transformation, were received.

- (a) Correspondence from David Cronin, Program Delivery Service Branch, Employment and Training Division, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, respecting Call for Proposal for

Service System Managers, Employment Services Transformation (Added Item 5.2.a); and

- (b) Correspondence from Susan Erwin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Assistance Programs Division, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, respecting Employment Services Transformation: Transition Planning for Prototype Regions (Added Item 5.2.b).

**(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

The following Delegation Requests, were approved:

- (i) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting how the low rates of social assistance do not enable a healthy diet (for today's meeting) (Item 6.1)
- (ii) Craig Blondin, Mount Hamilton Youth Soccer Club, respecting Mount Hamilton Youth Soccer Club plan (for a future meeting) (Item 6.3)

**(f) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 7)**

**(i) Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes (Item 7.4)**

The following Minutes of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, were received:

- (a) October 1, 2019
- (b) January 7, 2020

**(ii) Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes (Item 7.5)**

The following Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee, were received:

- (a) August 2, 2019
- (b) September 6, 2019
- (c) October 4, 2019
- (d) November 1, 2019
- (e) December 6, 2019

**(g) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Item 8)**

- (i) **Dr. Sally Palmer, McMaster Community Poverty Initiative, respecting the decision of the Ontario government to give no cost-of-living raise to social assistance for 2019, and the escalation of food prices in 2019 (Item 8.1)**

Dr. Sally Palmer, McMaster Community Poverty Initiative, addressed the Committee respecting the decision of the Ontario government to give no cost-of-living raise to social assistance for 2019, and the escalation of food prices in 2019, with the aid of a presentation.

The presentation is available at [www.hamilton.ca](http://www.hamilton.ca) and through the Office of the City Clerk.

Dr. Sally Palmer was permitted to address the Committee for an additional five minutes in order to complete their presentation.

**(ii) Sheri Selway, Canadian Federation of University Women - Hamilton, respecting the crisis with social assistance rates, with a focus on how women and families are particularly affected (Item 8.2)**

Sheri Selway and Myrtle Greve, Canadian Federation of University Women - Hamilton, addressed the Committee respecting the crisis with social assistance rates, with a focus on how women and families are particularly affected.

**(iii) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting how the low rates of social assistance do not enable a healthy diet (Item 8.3)**

Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, addressed the Committee respecting how the low rates of social assistance do not enable a healthy diet, with the aid of a handout.

The handout is available at [www.hamilton.ca](http://www.hamilton.ca) and through the Office of the City Clerk.

The following delegations, were received:

- (i) Dr. Sally Palmer, McMaster Community Poverty Initiative, respecting the decision of the Ontario government to give no cost-of-living raise to social assistance for 2019, and the escalation of food prices in 2019;
- (ii) Sheri Selway, Canadian Federation of University Women - Hamilton, respecting the crisis with social assistance rates, with a focus on how women and families are particularly affected; and
- (iii) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting how the low rates of social assistance do not enable a healthy diet.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 4.

**(h) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)**

**(i) Amendments to the Outstanding Business List (Item 13.1)**

The following amendment to the Emergency and Community Services Outstanding Business List, was approved:

**(a) Items Considered Completed and to be Removed:**

- (i) Menstrual Products Affordability Pilot Program**  
Item on OBL: N  
Addressed as Item 10.1 on today's agenda

**(i) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)**

The Emergency and Community Services Committee determined that discussion of Item 14.1 was not required in Closed Session; therefore, the matter was addressed in Open Session, as follows:

**(i) Closed Session Minutes – January 16, 2020 (Item 14.1)**

The Closed Session Minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

**(j) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

**(Jackson/Nann)**

There being no further business, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor E. Pauls  
Chair, Emergency and Community Services  
Committee

Tamara Bates  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk