



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 9, 2015
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Neighbourhood Action Strategy Project Fund (CES15014) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Suzanne Brown 905-546-2424 ext. 4711
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community & Emergency Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund balance, be allocated as set out in the following process to support the planning and implementation of the 11 neighbourhood action plans:

- (i) That project funding below \$10,000 be approved by the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Manager, in consultation with the Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Director, to an annual maximum of 60,000 from #2051255204;
- (ii) That project funding above \$10,000 will be approved through a report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee with approval by Council.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2011, Council approved a \$2,000,000 allocation to the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (Report CM11007) and directed that staff seek Council approval for use of the funds, either through the budget process or a specific report to Council. At that time, the recommendation followed standard approval processes for a Capital Levy Reserve allocation. The fund has since been transferred to a Works in Progress (WIP) account.

Between 2011 and 2014, \$1,056,233 has been committed or spent from the original \$2M with \$811,600 of that approved through committee/council reports.

As the Neighbourhood Action Plans have been created and endorsed by Council (ten plans to date, with one more due for completion in early 2016), project-specific funding has been requested with increasing frequency in the neighbourhoods. With this recommended process for approvals, resident involved and multi-stakeholder projects

that have emerged to address the actions identified in the neighbourhood plans can be implemented in a timely fashion.

***Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable***

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with Report CES15014.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES15014.

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with Report CES15014

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In September 2010, Council approved a neighbourhood initiative that was focused on two key aspects:

- (a) improving “Code Red” neighbourhoods; and,
- (b) better integration and focus between the City and community actions at a neighbourhood level.

To support this direction, in May 2011, Council approved the Neighbourhood Action Strategy through Report CM11007 “Neighbourhood Development Strategy” and the earmarking of \$2,000,000 from the Unallocated Capital Levy Reserve to support the implementation of the strategy.

Reports which sought project funding are listed in chronological order:

- General Issues Committee: May 9, 2011. \$86,000 to support the collection of primary survey data across a number of neighbourhoods in support of the research and evaluation plan listed in the Analysis section of the report (CM11007).
- General Issues Committee: August 13, 2012. \$150,000 for Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund Program Intake. Application by the Board of Directors of the Robert Land Community Association for Upgrades to the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre, and commit to funding one third of the cost of the project from the Neighbourhood Strategy Fund. (FCS12061).
- General Issues Committee: February 20, 2013. \$35,000 for Ontario Job Creation Program Hamilton Home Renovation Partnership (CM13001) (City Wide).
- Board of Health: August 12, 2013. \$25,000 for Public Health Secondment to Hamilton Family Health Team as a Community Networker (BOH13032) (Ward 4).
- General Issues Committee: March 19, 2014. \$35,000 for Neighbourhood Home Improvement Project (CES14015).
- Board of Health: June 16, 2014. \$25,750 Extension of Community Nurse Networker Pilot Project and Public Health Nurse Secondment - BOH14016 (Ward 4) Neighbourhood Development Strategy – Community Networker Pilot Project - CES14031 (Ward 4).

- General Issues Committee: June 18, 2014. \$156,000 Neighbourhood Action Strategy City-Wide Initiatives (CES14026) (City Wide).
- General Issues Committee: September 4, 2014. \$131,850 McQuesten Urban Agriculture Social Enterprise – Urban Farm (CES14037) (Ward 4).
- General Issues Committee: September 4, 2014. \$9,500 Neighbourhood Action Strategy - Housing Resource Facilitator Riverdale (CES14044).
- Community and Emergency Services Committee: December 15, 2014. \$112,500 Social Navigator Pilot Program (CES14062) (Ward 2) That the costs of continuing the Social Navigator Program in the amount of \$45,000 per year be funded through the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund for 2 ½ years.

There was one project approved for \$111,158, Report CES14028 - Creation of “Learning Annex” Project which did not proceed as the partnership funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities was not received.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The following Finance/Procurement process is proposed:

1. For funding below \$10,000, follow Procurement Policy #5.1 – Low dollar Value Procurements.
2. For funding above \$10,000, Council approval, through C&ES Committee report is required. The appropriate Procurement Policy should be followed.

### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Finance, Administration and Revenue Generation Division was consulted and have no concerns with the recommendations.

### **ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION**

As the Neighbourhood Action Plans have been created and endorsed by Council (ten plans to date, with one more due for completion in early 2016), project-specific funding has been requested with increasing frequency in the neighbourhoods.

The following process for evaluating funding requests is proposed:

- a. Must be based in at least one of the 11 identified NAS neighbourhoods;
- b. Must have support of residents either through the Neighbourhood Action Plans, community planning teams or their working group(s);
- c. Preference for projects which leverage other resources;
- d. Must not duplicate existing projects or programs;
- e. Must not contravene any City of Hamilton policies or procedures.

The following process for applying is proposed:

- a. Meet with the NAS manager to discuss their project idea. Prior to the meeting, neighbourhood planning teams should work with their community developer and/or NAS staff to:

- i. Develop a written proposal that includes a description of the project, the action in the neighbourhood plan that it addresses, budget, timeline and identification of other resources. This will be submitted to the NAS manager.
  - ii. A 3 month minimum lead time is required for completion of the required staff report.
- b. Partnerships developed to address actions within the neighbourhood action plan, should include resident involvement in the development and planning of the project or resident endorsement of the final project.

### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

None

### **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **Strategic Priority #1**

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

#### **Strategic Objective**

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None