



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

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 8, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Renewal of Funding Agreement with Social Planning and Research Council for Community Development (CES15058) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Al Fletcher 905-546-2424 ext. 4711
SUBMITTED BY:	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community and Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City of Hamilton fund the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton for community development support for the Neighbourhood Action Strategy from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$122,500, to be funded from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund (project #2051255204); and,
- (b) That the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services be authorized and directed to execute the renewal of the funding agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Social Planning and Research Council, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neighbourhood Action Strategy, a partnership initiative of the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation, was established in 2010 to work with residents and local leaders to make neighbourhoods healthier places for all residents. Through the City investment of \$2 million, the City has leveraged \$4.5 million in funding from community partners to support the Neighbourhood Action Strategy to date.

In June 2014, Council approved Report CES14026 which approved a partnership funding agreement with Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC) for community development staff for 16 months for neighbourhood development support to community groups.

This report seeks to extend the funding agreement with the City and SPRC to continue the community development support to the neighbourhood planning teams. The role of

the Community Developers is to provide quality asset-based community development (ABCD) support to neighbourhoods, neighbourhood planning teams and residents, to build resident engagement, capacity and assist with the completion of the neighbourhood action plans. The Community Developers are the conduit to the City and other community partners to secure the services required by the residents.

The Neighbourhood Action Strategy Community Developer team is a joint funding partnership between the Hamilton Community Foundation, the Best Start Network and the Neighbourhood Action Strategy fund.

This recommendation for funding also includes \$20,000 targeted at costs related to mediation services, facilitation support and professional development of the Community Developers as well as the Neighbourhood Planning Teams.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Social Planning and Research Council would be funded from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund (Project #2051255204) in the amount of \$122,500. As of October 1, 2015, \$368,000 of the \$2 million fund remains.

Staffing: There are no staffing issues related to Report CES15058.

Legal: Funding agreements with Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton will be executed prior to the release of any funds.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In October of 2010, Hamilton City Council approved the earmarking of \$2 million to support the Neighbourhood Action Strategy with an additional \$1 million per year commitment by Hamilton Community Foundation in community development support and neighbourhood granting.

Since its inception, the Neighbourhood Action Strategy has engaged with 11 identified neighbourhoods to develop unique neighbourhood action plans. Currently, there are 452 distinct actions from 10 of the 11 completed neighbourhood action plans, with the planning process almost complete in the 11th neighbourhood. Upon completion of each neighbourhood action plan, residents have presented their plans to General Issues Committee to unanimous endorsement. With each subsequent plan building on the early successes and momentum of the preceding, excitement for this community capacity building approach continues to grow within the community.

In June 2014, Council approved Report CES14026 which approved a partnership agreement with the Social Planning and Research Council for community development

support from September 2014 to December 31, 2015, in the amount of \$96,000 to be funded from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund.

A diverse set of resources are required to support the Neighbourhood Action Strategy, including community developers and Neighbourhood Action Strategy staff, along with many City departments and community partners, to project manage and support implementation of neighbourhood actions. The SPRC Community Developers provide a critical role in continuing this momentum and supporting resident engagement.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

There are no policy implications associated with report CES15058.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) was consulted and is in favour of the recommendation in Report CES15058..

Children's and Home Management Services Division, Community and Emergency Services Department was consulted and is in favour of the recommendation in Report CES15058.

The Performance, Planning and Evaluation Program Manager, Community and Emergency Services Department, lead the Neighbourhood Action Evaluation. All preliminary data shows value to continuing the Neighbourhood Action Strategy.

The Manager of Finance, Administration and Revenue Generation was consulted and provided advice regarding the financial recommendation. There are no issues with the financial components of Report CES15058.

Procurement, Financial Services was consulted and there are no issues with the recommendation in Report CES 15058.

The Social Planning and Research Council were consulted and are in favour of the recommendation.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

The continued success of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy project, as reported in the Annual Update Report CES15052 at the November 9, 2015 Emergency and Community Services Committee, can only be achieved through the partnerships of neighbourhoods, community organizations, SPRC and the City. The community developers provide direct support for the planning teams in the 11 neighbourhoods.

The measurement of effectiveness and success of the partnership with SPRC are evaluated yearly through the NAS Update Report which documents the community change based on this partnership along with other work being undertaken in the community. Based on the experience of supporting residents in neighbourhood engagement, this recommendation for funding also includes \$20,000 targeted at costs related to mediation services, facilitation support and professional development of the Community Developers as well as the Neighbourhood Planning Teams.

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

N/A