



## **EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES 16-006**

**1:30 pm**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2016**

**Council Chambers**

**Hamilton City Hall**

**71 Main Street West**

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**Present:** Councillors M. Green (Chair), A. Johnson (Vice Chair),  
J. Farr, S. Merulla, T. Jackson, J. Partridge, D. Skelly

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

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### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**1. Pilot Project to Increase Recreation Opportunities for Domiciliary Hostel Residents (CES14048(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

**(a) (Merulla/Farr)**

That Report CES14048(a) respecting Pilot Project to Increase Recreation Opportunities for Domiciliary Hostel Residents, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(b) (Merulla/Farr)**

That staff phase-out the Pilot Project to Increase Recreation Opportunities for Domiciliary Hostel Residents, and that service to the current participants be continued.

**CARRIED**

**2. Hamilton Housing Allowance Program (CES16028) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

**(Farr/Skelly)**

That Report CES16028 respecting Hamilton Housing Allowance Program, be received.

**CARRIED**

3. **Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Funding (CES16029) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)**

**(Skelly/Farr)**

That Report CES16029 respecting Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Funding, be received.

**CARRIED**

4. **Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (CES16021/PED16129) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)**

**(a) (Skelly/Farr)**

That Report CES16021/PED16129 respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(b) (Merulla/Skelly)**

WHEREAS a Living Wage provides sustainable employment opportunities;

WHEREAS sustainable employment decreases the demand on our social services network and, by extension, a savings to the public tax base;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City of Hamilton request that the Federal and Provincial Government develop an incentive program for employers, as a pilot program, to assess the pros and cons, as well as impacts, on the employer.

**CARRIED**

**(c) (Farr/Merulla)**

That the appropriate staff be requested to gather data from Services Canada in an effort to offer our Committee, in September, the approximate number of Hamilton businesses and companies currently paying a Living Wage and the percentage of residents who are making a Living Wage.

**CARRIED**

5. **Neighbourhood Action Strategy Refresh (CES16033) (City Wide) (Added Item 8.5)**

**(Skelly/Merulla)**

That Report CES16033 respecting Neighbourhood Action Strategy Refresh, be received.

**CARRIED**

**6. Early Years Child and Family Centres (Added Item 10.1)**

**(Merulla/Skelly)**

WHEREAS, our vision to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child includes ensuring that every child in Hamilton has equal opportunity to grow and develop to meet his or her full potential;

WHEREAS, The Province of Ontario is delivering on its commitment to make access to child and family programs easier by announcing the launch of Ontario Early Years Child (OEYC's) and Family Centres (OEYCFC) and will be tailored to local communities;

WHEREAS, the new system is amalgamating the Ontario Early Years Centres and the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres under the governance of the Municipality;

WHEREAS, the province is currently formulating a new funding model for the new OEYCFC system which will be released in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the current level of funding for the OEYC's system has remained unchanged since 2003;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to the Minister of Education to thank the Provincial Government for this decision to continue with their commitment on the transformation of the early system by moving the responsibility of system management for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres to the municipality and the need to fund them appropriately
- (b) That staff be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on the funding formula and any anticipated impacts on programs and services.

**CARRIED**

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

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

**1. ADDED DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)**

- 4.1 Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item

8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing.

- 4.2 Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage.

**2. ADDED CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)**

- 5.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes – May 10, 2016

**3. ADDED DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)**

- 8.5 Neighbourhood Action Strategy Refresh (CES16033) (City Wide)

**4. ADDED NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 10)**

- 10.1 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres

**(Merulla/A. Johnson)**

That the Agenda for the July 6, 2016 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

None.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)**

**(i) June 6, 2016**

**(Merulla/A. Johnson)**

That the Minutes of the June 6, 2016 Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)**

- (i) Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing. (Added Item 4.1)**

**(Merulla/A. Johnson)**

That the delegation request submitted by Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing, be approved to appear before the Emergency & Community Services Committee July 6, 2016 meeting.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage. (Added Item 4.2)**

**(A. Johnson/Farr)**

That the delegation request submitted by Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage, be approved to appear before the Emergency & Community Services Committee July 6, 2016 meeting.

**CARRIED**

**(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)**

- (i) Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes – May 10, 2016 (Item 5.1)**

**(Merulla/Farr)**

That the Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes dated May 10, 2016, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 6)**

- (i) Brian Sibley, Executive Director, Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes Inc. respecting a Proposal to Leverage Section 95 Properties to Create New Affordable Housing (Item 6.1)**

Brian Sibley, Executive Director, Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes Inc. addressed Committee regarding a proposal to leverage Section 95 properties to create new affordable housing. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Organizational Profile
- Mortgage Expiry Dates
- Long-Term Organizational Assessment:

- Crisis of Equity – Assets value approximately \$150 million which cannot be leveraged, and outstanding mortgages total \$38 million
- Crisis of Reserve Fund Allocation – Maintenance of units requires three times the current capital reserves, and current rate of expenditure, the reserve fund will be depleted within two years
- Crisis of Segmentation – There are five different reserve funds for specifically assigned portfolios. The annual reserve shortfall for MMAH portfolios is \$380,000, but across all portfolios it is only \$38,000 annually
- Crisis of Funding – Kiwanis Homes' Hamilton properties are solely funded by the City of Hamilton. Budgeting is based on responding to externally imposed values and deferring work until it is absolutely necessary
- Crisis of Infrastructure – No new developments in approx. 20 years, and all investment has been limited to repair and maintenance of existing facilities (some of which are more than 25 years old)
- Crisis of Revenue Generation – Alternative revenue sources are limited as all new tenants must be taken from the ATH centralized waiting list
- Affordable Housing as a Viable Option to Rent-Geared-to-Income
- Feasibility of Development of New Affordable Housing Properties
  - First Time Affordable Home Buyers Program
  - Sale of Units at Market Value
  - Remortgage of Properties
  - Private/Non-Profit Development Partnership
  - Variations on a Theme:
    - Community Land Trust
    - Donation of Land by the City of Hamilton for Affordable Housing Development
    - Lease of City-Owned Land

**(A. Johnson/Farr)**

That the presentation by Brian Sibley respecting a Proposal to Leverage Section 95 Properties to Create New Affordable Housing, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(Merulla/Skelly)**

That the presentation regarding the proposal to leverage Section 95 properties to create new affordable housing be referred to staff for a report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, and Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing, and to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage. (Added Item 4.1 and 4.2)**

Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, and Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, addressed Committee regarding Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing; and to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage. The presentation, entitled “Hamilton’s Vital Signs 2015 – Hamilton’s Economic Renaissance: A prosperity unevenly shared” included, but was not limited to, the following:

- City’s unemployment rate is improving
- Employment and Youth:
  - Teens in the lower city, many living in lowest income neighbourhoods, are far from main locations of teen jobs
  - Employment rates are better measure of labour market health
- Housing:
  - Lowest income tenants pay the highest proportion of their household income on rent
  - Largest rent increases are in smallest, lowest priced units
  - Hamilton has lost about 1,000 primary market rental units since 2004, in large part due to condo-conversions
  - Rent increases in Hamilton are higher than other communities
- Social Assistance:
  - Social assistance caseloads still higher than before recession
  - Deep poverty experienced by people living on social assistance is a major barrier to transitioning back to employment
- Precarious Employment:

- Impact of precarious employment on family life
- Policy Solutions – Vital Signs policy solutions drawn from Canadian “think tanks”:
  - Increased access to experiences and opportunities, especially for children and younger adults that help provide ladder into the middle-class
  - Modernization of Canada’s social safety net and employment support programs, including childcare and affordable housing, to reflect a changing labour market
  - Improving employment conditions and access to labour market information
    - Including through living wage jobs
    - Invitation to the City of Hamilton to become a living wage champion
- Living Wage – list of more than 30 local organizations who have stepped up and committed to paying staff a living wage

**(Farr/Merulla)**

That the presentation by Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, and Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, addressed Committee regarding Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (Item 8.4), to provide a summary of research and findings related to employment, youth and housing; and to address precarious employment, social assistance and living wage, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(Merulla/Farr)**

That the Report respecting Vital Signs: Poverty and Employment Indicators (CES16021/PED16129) (Item 8.4) be moved up in the agenda.

**CARRIED**

For disposition of this matter, see Item 4.

**(g) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 10)**

Councillor Merulla introduced the following Notice of Motion:

**(i) Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (Added Item 10.1)**

WHEREAS, Our vision to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child includes ensuring that every child in Hamilton has equal opportunity to grow and develop to meet his or her full potential.



WHEREAS, The Province of Ontario is delivering on its commitment to make access to child and family programs easier by announcing the launch of Ontario Early Years Child (OEYC's) and Family Centres (OEYCFC) and will be tailored to local communities.

WHEREAS, the new system is amalgamating the Ontario Early Years Centres and the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres under the governance of the Municipality

WHEREAS, the province is currently formulating a new funding model for the new OEYCFC system which will be released in 2017

WHEREAS, the current level of funding for the OEYC's system has remained unchanged since 2003

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to the Minister of Education to thank the provincial government for this decision to continue with their commitment on the transformation of the early system by moving the responsibility of system management for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres to the municipality and the need to fund them appropriately
- b) That staff be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on the funding formula and any anticipated impacts on programs and services

**(Merulla/Skelly)**

That the Rules of Order be waived to allow for the introduction of a motion respecting Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres.

**CARRIED**

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 6.

**(h) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 12)**

**(i) Closed Session Minutes – June 6, 2016 (Item 12.1)**

**(Skelly Farr/)**

That the Closed Session Minutes of the Emergency & Community Services Committee dated June 6, 2016, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**(i) ADJOURNMENT**

**(Farr/Skelly)**

That, there being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee adjourn at 3:54 pm.

**CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Green  
Chair, Emergency & Community  
Services Committee

Lisa Chamberlain  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk