



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 5, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Student Accommodation Benefit Factor - Ward Budgets (FCS17089) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Janie Hartwell (905) 546-2424 x4522
SUBMITTED BY:	Mike Zegarac General Manager Finance and Corporate Services
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

At the September 11, 2017 Audit, Finance & Administration Committee, staff was requested to provide a report outlining the details of the Student Accommodation Benefit Factor component of the Ward Budgets.

Information:

History

At the September 5, 2014 Governance Review Sub-Committee meeting, the following recommendation was approved to form part of the 2015 City Budget deliberations:

“That a new “Student Accommodation Factor Benefit”* be established to assist specific Ward budgets as outlined below:

Ward 1 (presence of main campuses of McMaster University and Columbia International College).

12% benefit* (29,496) = \$1769.76

Ward 8 (presence of main campuses of Mohawk College and Hillfield Strathallan College and a presence by Columbia International College).

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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12% benefit*(49,661) = \$2979.66

Ward 10 (presence of satellite campus of Mohawk College).

5% benefit*(24,278) = \$606.95

Ward 12 (presence of main campus of Redeemer University College).

7% benefit*(34,825) = \$1218.88

Total: \$6,575.25

Benefit* is percentage x ward population (based on 2011 census) x \$0.50/person = \$value.”

The calculation, as identified in the recommendation, was built into the 2015 Ward budgets and they were approved as part of the 2015 budget deliberations.

Calculation

The Population Factor is one component of the Ward budgets. It is calculated using the 2016 census tables to identify the population per Ward. Each Ward receives \$.50 / capita for the first 15,000 constituents and \$.75 / capita for the remainder.

The Student Accommodation Factor Benefit is another component of the Ward budgets. This calculation also uses the census population data, but is tailored for each of the affected Wards by applying varying % benefits to arrive at a base student population. The base is then multiplied by \$.50 per person to arrive at the Student Accommodation Factor Benefit.

The 2017 budget allowance for the Student Accommodation Factor Benefit is:

- Ward 1 - \$1,786
- Ward 8 - \$3,133
- Ward 10 - \$604
- Ward 12 - \$1,356

The benefit is not capped. Since the calculation is not indexed, the amounts only fluctuate when new Census data is available.

Options

Increase the Population Factor to include full-time, post-secondary students. This could be based on enrolment figures obtained from the institutions.

Adjust the Student Accommodation Factor Benefit to reflect the base student population by using enrolment figures obtained from the institutions rather than using the Ward population as the base.

Increase the budget per person for the Student Accommodation Factor Benefit from \$.50 per person to something greater.

A combination of the above three options could be adopted.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

None.

JH/dt