



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARDS 2 and 8
COMMITTEE DATE: September 8, 2011	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: CS11076 Status and Next Steps St. Mark's Church, and Auchmar Estate (CS11076) (Wards 2 and 8)	
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction: Not Applicable

Information:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the status and next steps regarding St. Mark's Church, and Auchmar Estate.

Background

Unoccupied for many years, both St Mark's Church and Auchmar Estate require an appropriate use to ensure their future sustainability. Both properties are of cultural significance¹ and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In addition, Auchmar Estate is subject to a Heritage Conservation Easement Agreement.

It is the intention of the City to pursue a "best and highest use" study for both St. Mark's Church and Auchmar Estate. The study will provide a variety of options for Council's consideration including community, civic and/or private use. The responsibility for conducting the study will be under the Portfolio Management Committee (PMC),

¹ *Cultural significance* is the term used to encompass all the meanings (values) that a place may have to people, beyond its utilitarian value. Commonly it refers to aesthetic, historical, scientific, or social value for past or present generations, and for its likely value to future generations.

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Planning and Economic Development Department. The role of the PMC will be to guide and direct the development of the RFP then evaluate and recommend the most appropriate use to Council. This responsibility is congruent with the purpose and mandate of the PMC².

Until “best and highest use”, studies are completed any ongoing community based fundraising initiatives or community engagement activities related to these properties will be put on hold. City staff will inform stakeholders and community members of this direction.

The cost for this study is approximately \$40,000 and will be funded from Project ID 7201155700 – Cultural Strategic Priorities. PMC will be utilizing staff from the Culture division and other City departments as required for the preparation, issuance, and review of the RFP for the study. Once PMC has completed this work, a report will be prepared and brought to Council for approval.

² The purpose of the PMC is to determine how to maximize the benefits and serve the public interest through real estate holdings owned or controlled by the Municipality and provide recommendations to Council (Portfolio Management Committee - Terms of Reference)