

Item 7.2, E&CS Meeting December 9, 2013

Food and Shelter Advisory Committee 2013 Milestones Presentation

**To Emergency and Community Services
December 9, 2013**

Presentation Overview

- ▶ Remind you of FSAC's mandate and membership
- ▶ Describe FSAC's interests
- ▶ Detail future plans

Why Does Food and Shelter Advisory Committee Exist?

- ▶ The reality is that people in Hamilton are still experiencing hunger and homelessness:
 - ▶ In 2012, **18,448** people (including 7,673 children) utilized a food bank in one month
 - ▶ In 2011, **3,304** men, women and children stayed in a shelter (non-Violence Against Women)
 - ▶ According to the 2006, **one in five** Hamilton households pay more than half of their income on housing (putting them at risk of homelessness)

FSAC Mandate

- ▶ Identify the urgent needs to citizens for whom barriers exist to obtaining income security, sufficient nutritious food, and access to safe and affordable shelter, with adequate supports.
- ▶ Provide information regarding urgent community needs and recommendations toward their resolution to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

FSAC Mandate

- ▶ Where appropriate, agency members will take immediate and specialized action to address these issues.
- ▶ Provide an opportunity for FSAC members to liaise and collaborate with other levels of government, other committees, citizens, and agencies regarding responses and recommendations for emergency food supports and shelter needs.

FSAC Membership

- ▶ 4 Citizen Representatives
- ▶ 8 Service Sector Representatives
- ▶ 4 Committee Resource Partners (ex-officio)
- ▶ Committee supported by City of Hamilton – Housing Services Division Staff
- ▶ Recent leadership change:
 - ▶ Alex Ramirez stepped down from his Chair position and resigned from FSAC
 - ▶ Medora Uppal is now the Chair
 - ▶ Katherine Kalinowski has been elected Vice Chair

FSAC – 2013 Activities

- ▶ Provided input to the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative
- ▶ Discussed the implications of the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefits cuts
- ▶ Shared information across different sectors about pressures and opportunities

FSAC – 2013 Acknowledgments

- ▶ Continued food bank support
- ▶ Leadership and commitment around women's homelessness
- ▶ Endorsement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call for a national response to the housing crisis
- ▶ Attention and action on filling the gap left by the ending of the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit

FSAC's Interests for 2014

- ▶ Being involved in the implementation of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- ▶ Facilitating action on the continued crisis within the women's homelessness system
- ▶ Responding to emergent community issues (CSUMB, discretionary benefits)

FSAC's Interests for 2014

- ▶ Being consulted for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy planning and the Food Strategy
- ▶ Providing Council with advice around the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy
- ▶ Supporting the ongoing advocacy effort to senior government for fair and adequate funding
- ▶ Having a Councillor connected formally to Food and Shelter

Any questions?

