Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

If your request is for a specific committee meeting, this form must be received by NOON the day before the committee meeting. Requests for Monday meetings must be received the Friday before the meeting. If scheduled for the day after a statutory holiday must be received the last business day before the mee

Standing Committee Requested

Kindly indicate which Standing Committee: * Committee of the Whole

Requestor Information

Name of Individual: * Roy Bennett
Name of Organization: Ontario Homes for Special Needs Association
Do you or your organization represent a lobbyist (voluntary) Yes
No
Contact Number: * 905-527-8043
Email Address: * bennettrocb@rogers.com
Mailing Address: * 160 Park Street South Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3E8
Reason(s) for delegation request: * Speaking on behalf of the Residential Care Facilities (RCF)
Will you be submitting a formal presentation?* Yes
No
Overhead projector required for the presentation
Power Point required for the presentation

Requests to speak to Council are forwarded to the Standing Committee for consideration. Once considered by Committee, and approved, you will be notified of the date for your presentation. Personal information collected on this form is authorized under Section 5.10(2) of the City’s Procedural By-law No. 03-301 for the purpose of contacting individuals and/or organizations requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before a Standing Committee and will be published with the Committee Agenda. The Voluntary Lobbyist Registry is a public document and will be available for viewing in the City Clerk’s office. The Procedural By-law is a requirement of Section 238(2) of the Municipal Act. Questions about its collection can be directed to the Manager of Legislative Services, 77 James St N, Suite 220, Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3 (905) 546-2424 ext. 5409
Dear Mrs. Priel

As you are aware, January 11th 2010 the new Standards for the Residential Care Facilities will be submitted to the Council for its consideration and approval. We as an Association have had several meetings concerning the Standards as well as the Subsidy Contracts with yourself and Betty Lou Purdon. In these discussions funding was raised as the critical issue several times, and the cost impact which the enhanced Standards revised provisions in the Subsidy Contracts would impose on the Residential Care Facility industry was clearly highlighted.

In our on-going meetings we have asked that our concerns be brought forward and that the City of Hamilton would consider allocating emergency funding to be applied to the fire retrofit upgrades and the other additional physical and operational upgrades required by the Public Health Department of the facilities. As part of our deliberations we ask that a moratorium be put in place effective immediately to delay any new or additional requirements imposed by the new Standards and that they be put on hold until a cost analysis is done. We have previously submitted a cost analysis to your office for its reference.

You have indicated to us that a review of the industry will be conducted and a report would be submitted to you through Betty Lou Purdon. We know that this report could take several months to formulate the proper data and to compile the information, as of today’s date that process has not even been started. This delay is extremely problematic as we have had several meetings which have not proven to be productive to this point in time. Furthermore the bureaucracy is forging ahead with the new requirements, absent meaningful input and total disregard to the financial implications on the operations of the facilities.

When this By-Law was implemented in the late 1980’s the Christopherson Report as it was known recognized that without funding the new Standards could and should not be implemented. Section 20 must not be imposed without recognition that there are serious cost implications to the Facilities’ ability to provide those newly required standards. The
Facilities are not opposed to new Standards but they must be given the resources to meet those requirements. The Christopherson Report in its wisdom recognized the limitations and instructed the various staff not to impose new requirements until the funding question was resolved.

It is common knowledge (as expressed and acknowledged by various staff personnel) that the facilities are grossly underfunded. Many studies and audits have been completed over the past few years verifying this obvious fact. The shortfall in funding has been objectively verified to be in the order of at least 35%. Moreover other municipalities are quite amazed at the magnitude of the services which Hamilton operators already are required to provide. In all good conscience an industry that is underfunded and already providing excessive services should not be required to provide additional unfunded services. This is grossly unfair and will result in additional undue hardship on the operators which will lead to a further deterioration of services to a client group seriously in need of service enhancement not diminishment. The City’s Roundtable on poverty is diametrically opposed in philosophy to the direction that the additional Section 20 requirements are taking if unfunded.

Your cooperation at this critical juncture is mandatory to the well-being of the operators and by extension the vulnerable clients we serve and for whom we provide services.

We ask you to insure that this letter of concern be included together with the new Section 20 unfunded requirements in the package for Council to be made aware of on the January 11th meeting, for its information and immediate action of:

**Imposing an immediate moratorium until the funding/resource question is resolved.**

Respectfully Yours,

[Signature]

Roy Bennett
Director for Region 3
January 4, 2010

Mr. Roy Bennett
Ontario Homes for Special Needs Association
160 Park Street South
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 3E8

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank-you for your letter of December 11, 2009 in which you expressed your concern regarding increased costs related to implementation of the City’s new standards for Residential Care Facilities. Joe-Anne Priel asked that I respond to your letter on her behalf.

In your letter, you requested that your letter of concern be included as a written submission with the agenda package for the January 11, 2010 Council meeting. It is important to note that the date for this agenda item has been changed to February 8, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting. Your letter has been forwarded as requested to the City Clerk’s office and will be provided to all members of Council. You also have the option of submitting a delegation request to speak to the issue at the Committee of the Whole meeting in person. If you choose to do this, please see form that needs to be completed and submitted using the following link:

www.hamilton.ca/YourElectedOfficials/Request+to+Speak+to+a+Committee+of+Council.htm

The Community Services Department is committed to conducting a full review of the Residential Care Facilities Program in 2010. We will also continue to work with you and other Residential Care Facility operators to find solutions to the funding challenges related to the licensing and operation of your facilities.

Thank-you for your continued interest and I look forward to further discussion early in 2010.

Gillian Hendry
Director, Social Housing & Homelessness Division
Community Services Department

Copy to: Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager
Betty-Lou Purdon, Program Manager
Vince Ormond, Coordinator, Municipal Law Enforcement