Present: Councillors T. Jackson (Chair), S. Duvall (1st Vice Chair), S. Merulla (2nd Vice Chair), M. McCarthy, B. McHattie, B. Morelli and R. Pasuta

Also Present: J. Rinaldo, Acting City Manager
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
J. Kay, Chief/General Manager, Hamilton Emergency Services
G. Hendry, Director, Employment & Income Support Branch
J. Soldera, Director, Social Development & Early Childhood Services
C. Wheeler, Coordinator, Corporate Initiatives, City Manager’s Office
B. Kreps, Manager, Housing Policy & Programs
S. Paparella, Legislative Assistant, City Clerk’s Office

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 08-013 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **Bed Bug Management Update (ECS08042) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**

   That Report ECS08042 – Bed Bug Management Update be received.

2. **Arts Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes, dated August 26, 2008 (Item 5.2)**

   That the Arts Advisory Commission meeting Minutes, dated August 26, 2008, be received.
3. **City of Hamilton Ontario Works 2008 Caseload Statistics (ECS08046) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)**

   (a) That Report ECS08046 – City of Hamilton Ontario Works 2008 Caseload Statistics be received.

   (b) That staff be directed to prepare a report, which details the City of Hamilton’s financial exposure to the potential increase in demand for Ontario Works and Housing, as a result of the economic crisis and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

4. **Update on Hostels to Homes Pilot (ECS08047) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)**

   That Report ECS08047 – Update on Hostels to Homes Pilot project be received.

5. **Cultural Policy and Plan (ECS08048) (City Wide) (Item 5.5)**

   That report ECS04048 – Cultural Policy and Plan be received.

6. **Peter Page, President, Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group respecting Social Services Matters (Item 6.1)**

   That the correspondence from Peter Page, President, Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group respecting Social Services Matters be received and referred to the General Manager of Community Services for consultation with the appropriate departments for a report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

7. **Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Annual Presentation (Item 7.1)**

   That the annual presentation, provided by the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee, be received.

8. **Ontario Works Cost of Administration and Employment Assistance Budget Review - Final Report (CM07021(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

   (a) That the Consultant’s report entitled “City of Hamilton – Cost of Administration and Employment Assistance Budget Review”, prepared by Pauline Lewis & Associates, hereto attached as Appendix A to Report CM07021(a), be received.
(b) That staff be directed to create a business practice to collect information on individual outcomes or benefits resulting from the receipt of a discretionary support to facilitate measuring the program’s impact and improving accountability, with respect to the Ontario Works Program, and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

(c) That Council be requested to continue to advocate the Provincial and Federal governments to appropriately fund and deliver health benefits to low-income Ontarians, under the Ontario Works Program.

(d) That staff be directed to track requests for discretionary health benefits, from persons who have recently exited the Ontario Works Program, to determine:

   (i) the extent to which modified eligibility criteria could serve as a preventative measure to support people on a temporary basis or in a crisis situation; thereby, avoiding an application for Ontario Works; and,

   (ii) the financial savings that could be realized if the Ministry of Community and Social Services Extended Health Benefits eligibility criteria were modified.

9. Amendments to the City of Hamilton’s Emergency Plan (HES08016) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

That the By-law to Amend Hamilton’s Emergency Plan, Schedule “B” – to the Emergency Management Program By-law No. 05-105 (attached as Appendix “A” to Report HES08016), be passed and enacted.

10. Trunked Radio System Upgrade (HES08004) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

That the General Manager of Hamilton Emergency Services/Chief or his designate be authorized and directed to negotiate a multi-year, single source contract with the incumbent vendor, Motorola Canada Inc., for the implementation of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – Project 25 Digital Integrated Voice / Data Radio Infrastructure, and report back with the draft negotiated agreement to Emergency and Community Services Committee for consideration.
11. **Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (ECS08050) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)**

   (a) That Council correspond with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Children and Youth Services urging them to work together to fund child care at a level necessary to support the City of Hamilton’s population of children zero to 12 years of age.

   (b) That staff be directed to review the implications, outlined in the Alternatives for Consideration section of Report ECS08050, and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

12. **Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee Member Resignation (Item 9.1)**

   That the resignation submitted by James Buffet from the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee be accepted.

13. **Real Options of Support (ROOFS) Program (Item 9.3)**

   That staff be directed to work with community stakeholders and tenants to develop a strategy that would effectively increase and sustain the ROOFS Program, as a viable mechanism for supporting vulnerable CityHousing Hamilton tenants and stabilizing the CityHousing Hamilton community at 181 Jackson St. W. and 95 Hess St. S., Hamilton, Ontario.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:**

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

   The Committee Clerk noted the following changes to the agenda:

   (i) Added as Item 4.2 – a delegation request made by Paul Johnson of Best Start Network respecting Item 8.3 – Report ECS08050 - Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (to appear on October 22, 2008).

   (ii) Items 11.1(i) – Vital Services By-law and 11.1(viii) – Open Skate Sessions on P.A. Days requesting revised due dates of December 3, 2008 for both items.

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**Council – October 29, 2008**
(iii) Additional Items requiring Removal from the Outstanding Business List:

(a) Item "KK" Ontario Works Caseload
    (Will be addressed as Item 5.2 of today’s agenda)

(b) Item "C" – Roomers and Boarders
    (Addressed at the October 14, 2008 Committee of the Whole, Item 5, Report 08-030)

(iv) Item 9.2 - Citizen Appointment to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee has been pulled from this agenda as it was considered at the Audit & Administration Committee this morning (October 22, 2008).

The Agenda for the October 22, 2008 Emergency & Community Services Committee was approved as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

(c) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

3.1 September 17, 2008

The Minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

(d) Delegation Request: Glenn Harkness, Executive Director, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club respecting Space Concerns for Community Partners and On-Site Programs (Item 4.1)

The delegation request, made by Glenn Harkness, Executive Director, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, respecting Space Concerns for Community Partners and On-Site Programs (to appear November 19, 2008), was approved.

(e) Delegation Request made by Paul Johnson of Best Start Network Respecting Item 8.3 – Report ECS08050 - Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (Item 4.2)

The delegation request made by Paul Johnson, of Best Start Network, Respecting Item 8.3 – Report ECS08050 - Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (to appear on October 22, 2008) was approved.
(f) City of Hamilton Ontario Works 2008 Caseload Statistics (ECS08046) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)

The following was added as recommendation (b) to Report ECS08046 - City of Hamilton Ontario Works 2008 Caseload Statistics:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has downloaded Housing and Ontario Works to the municipal level of government in Hamilton; and,

WHEREAS the present economic crisis poses a significant level of threat to the financial sustainability of the City of Hamilton, as a direct result on the Ontario Works and Housing download not being revenue neutral;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to prepare a report, which details the City of Hamilton’s financial exposure to the potential increase in demand for Ontario Works and Housing, as a result of the economic crisis and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

(g) Peter Page, President, Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group respecting Social Services Matters (Item 6.1)

Peter Page, Andrew Beaumay and Karl Crivar addressed Committee and advised of the Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group’s concerns for workers who suffer from permanent disabilities, as a result of a workplace accident being driven into poverty.

Mr. Page requested, on behalf of the Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group, that Council prepare and send a resolution to the Province addressing the:

(i) elimination of deeming;
(ii) restoration of the full cost of living indexation; and,
(iii) elimination of experience rating.

The presentation, made by Peter Page, President, Hamilton & District Injured Workers’ Group respecting Social Services Matters was received.

(h) Deirdre Pike, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, respecting the Outcome of the event on October 31, 2008 respecting Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy: 25 in 5 (Reducing Poverty by 25% in 5 Years) (Item 6.2)

Deirdre Pike, advised Committee of the outcome of the even held at Queen’s Park on October 21, 2008 respecting the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy: 25 in 5 (Reducing Poverty by 25% in 5 Years).

Council – October 29, 2008
The presentation, made by Deirdre Pike, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, respecting the Outcome of the event on October 31, 2008 respecting Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy: 25 in 5 (Reducing Poverty by 25% in 5 Years) was received.

(i) Paul Johnson of Best Start Network Respecting Item 8.3 – Report ECS08050 - Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (Item 6.3)

Paul Johnson, Best Start Network, spoke in support of staff’s recommendation contained in Report ECS08050 – Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management.

Mr. Johnson advised Committee that the Best Start Network is concerned that, as a result of an increasing need for child care, the Hamilton community has had to implement a waitlist for families who require access to fee subsidies in order to ensure their children receive safe and adequate care. While the Province has changed the eligibility for child care fee subsides to a straight income test model; removing the needs test to access affordable child care, the investment to support this increased demand for child care has not followed.

Mr. Johnson provided the following comments and suggestions to Committee:

(a) The Best Start Network believes that correspondence with the Provincial and Federal levels of government should addresses the “tough times” argument that they feel we will receive in response to our correspondence.

Investments in the early years should be considered a priority no matter what the economic circumstances. The early years are critical in terms of setting the trajectory of learning, health and behaviour later in life. As well, every child should be ready to learn and able to connect with the community, in which they live, in a positive manner.

(b) The Best Start Network also believes that when looking at increasing investment in child care that the investment be sustainable; support of children and young families must be ongoing.

(j) Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Annual Presentation (Item 7.1)

Ron Sherigan, Chair of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee, with the assistance of Brian Kreps, Manager, Housing Policy & Programs, provided the annual presentation of the Advisory Committee’s achievements and goals to-date.
(k) **Ontario Works Cost of Administration and Employment Assistance Budget Review - Final Report (CM07021(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

Connie Wheeler, Coordinator, Corporate Initiatives, and Dean Waterfield, of Pauline Lewis Consulting Inc., were available to provide a presentation and answer questions respecting Report CM08021(a) – Ontario Works Cost of Administration and Employment Assistance Budget Review. Committee opted to forgo the presentation by the consultant.

(l) **Citizen Appointment to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Advisory Committee (Item 9.2)**

This item was pulled from the Emergency & Community Services Committee and added to the October 22, 2008 agenda of the Audit & Administration Committee.

(m) **Real Options of Support (ROOFS) Program (Item 9.3)**

The following motion was provided as Item 9.3:

WHEREAS the mission of CityHousing Hamilton is to provide affordable housing that is safe, well maintained, cost effective and that supports the diverse needs of our many communities; and,

WHEREAS the diverse needs of CityHousing Hamilton tenants include both financial and increasingly challenging and complex social and health issues; and,

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton’s Real Options of Support (ROOFS) Program has had success in intervening and supporting tenants with respect to these issues, which benefits the individual tenant as well as the housing community; and,

WHEREAS, the current capacity of the ROOFS Program is limited and is challenged to meet the ongoing and growing needs in the CityHousing Hamilton community at 181 Jackson St. W. and 95 Hess St. S.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to work with community stakeholders and tenants to develop a strategy that would effectively increase and sustain the ROOFS Program, as a viable mechanism for supporting vulnerable CityHousing Hamilton tenants and stabilizing the CityHousing Hamilton community at 181 Jackson St. W. and 95 Hess St. S., Hamilton, Ontario.
(n) Outstanding Business List Items Requiring Approval for Proposed New Due Dates (Item 11.1)

The proposed new due dates for the following Emergency & Community Services Committee Outstanding Business items were approved, as shown below:

(i) Item “B” – Vital Services By-law
   Current Due Date: October 8, 2008
   Proposed New Due Date: December 3, 2008

(ii) Item “F” – Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits
    Current Due Date: October 22, 2008
    Proposed New Due Date: November 19, 2008

(iii) Item “G” – Farmers’ Market: Implications of Operating the Market by an Independent Operator
     Current Due Date: October 22, 2008
     Proposed New Due Date: December 3, 2008

(iv) Item “J” – Adequacy of Ontario Works Social Assistance Rates and the Economic Impact of Ontario Child Benefit Monies
     Current Due Date: November 5, 2008
     Proposed New Due Date: December 3, 2008

(v) Item “K” State of Care for Seniors
    Current Due Date: November 19, 2008
    Proposed New Due Date: January 21, 2009

(vi) Item “M” – Feasibility of Moving Staff to First Place
     Current Due Date: October 8, 2008
     Proposed New Due Date: November 19, 2008

(vii) Item “S” – Strategic Plan for the Emergency Food Sector
     Current Due Date: October 22, 2008
     Proposed New Due Date: December 3, 2008

(viii) Item “W” - Open Skate Sessions on P.A. Days
       Current Due Date: October 8, 2008
       Proposed New Due Date: December 3, 2008

(o) Outstanding Business List Items Requiring Approval for Removal: (Item 11.2)

The following Items were considered complete and removed from the Emergency & Community Services Committee’s Outstanding Business List:

Council – October 29, 2008
(i) Item “Y” – Auchmar Estate  
(Action completed via report to the Ontario Trust.)

(ii) Item “KK” Ontario Works Caseload  
(Will be addressed as Item 5.2 of today’s agenda)

(iii) Item “C” – Roomers and Boarders  
(Addressed at the October 14, 2008 Committee of the Whole, Item 5, Report 08-030)

(p) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL – APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

12.1 September 17, 2008

As the Committee determined that no discussion or amendments, respecting the Closed Session Minutes of the September 17, 2008, meeting of Emergency & Community Services Committee were required, the Minutes were approved in Open Session, as shown below:

The Closed Session Minutes of the September 17, 2008, meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

The Closed Session Minutes of the September 17, 2008 Emergency & Community Services Committee will remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure, in accordance with exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

(q) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

There being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor T. Jackson, Chair  
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Stephanie Paparella  
Legislative Assistant  
October 22, 2008