Present: Chair B. Bratina, Vice-Chair S. Merulla
Councillors B. Kelly, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, B. Morelli

Also Present: J. Soldera, Acting General Manager, G. Hendry, R.
McKnight, Community Services
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, L. Friday, Corporate Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL & SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-010 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Changes to O.D.S.P. Eligibility Criteria

   Whereas, the Ontario Works mandate is specifically focused on facilitating Ontario Works clients to employment;

   Whereas, the Province of Ontario amended criteria for eligibility of Ontario Disability Support Program (O.D.S.P.) for clients who have mental health issues;

   Whereas, the City of Hamilton presently has 2000 Ontario Work’s clients who are currently applying for O.D.S.P. and whose eligibility may be limited by eligibility criteria changes that were made to the O.D.S.P. Act in 1995;

   Therefore be it resolved that the City of Hamilton strongly encourages the Provincial Government to roll back eligibility criteria to the 1995 level, thereby allowing the Liberal Government to fulfill their campaign promise.

2. 2005-2007 Ontario Works Service Plan (SSC06022) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)


Council – September 13, 2006
3. **Funding Formula of the Federal National Housing Act (NHA) Section 95 Social Housing Program (SSC06021) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

   (a) That Council correspond with the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Federal Minister of Labour and Housing and request that the funding formula for Federal National Housing Act (NHA) Section 95 be revised to ensure sustainable funding.

   (b) That this letter be copied to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Service Association (OMSSA), the Service Managers Housing Network (SMHN), the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF) and the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC).

4. **Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements (SSC06025) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

   (a) That Council correspond with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (draft letter attached as Appendix A hereto), to request that the local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers be included at the provincial planning table, and be permitted to lead local planning activities for implementation of the Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements.

   (b) That members of Council meet with local area Members of Provincial Parliament in order to advocate for participation of the local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers at the provincial planning table and to lead local planning activities for implementation of the Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements.

   (c) That a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Association of Municipalities (AMO) requesting their support of this initiative.

5. **Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental Payments**

   Whereas, tenants pay a significant amount of property taxes; and

   Whereas, it is difficult for tenants to ascertain their own property tax impact as it is blended into their monthly rent; and

   Whereas, high property taxes generally lead to significant citizen involvement in civic life;

   Therefore be it resolved that Council correspond with the Minister of Finance in order to request that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) re-instate the practice of including individual assessments on all tenant properties in Ontario.

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OR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) **Changes to the Agenda (Item 1)**

There were no changes noted by the Clerk.

(b) **Declaration of Interest (Item 2)**

None

(c) **Approval of Minutes (Item 3)**

The minutes of the June 27, 2006 Social Services Standing Committee meeting were approved as presented.

(d) **2005-2007 Ontario Works Service Plan (SSC06022) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**

Gillian Hendry provided an overview of the report to members of Committee.

Members of Committee raised questions regarding employment outcomes, the need to incorporate other resources in the community, the need for more flexibility during the process, advocating a change to the eligibility criteria and case load reduction.

On a motion, the Committee recommended that correspondence be sent to the Provincial Government encouraging them to roll back eligibility criteria to the 1995 level.

Councillor Merulla expressed his gratitude to staff for the great job all the front line workers are doing considering the continuous changes and cutbacks that have been imposed by Provincial Legislation.

(e) **Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements (SSC06025) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

Gillian Hendry provided an overview of the staff report and requested that an amendment be made to recommendation (c) by deleting the following wording;

“and further request that this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities requesting their support”.

Ms. Hendry advised that A.M.O.’s cost to circulate this motion was cost prohibitive.

Members of Committee agreed to the friendly amendment and approved the staff recommendation.
(f) Outstanding Business List (Item 11.1)

Jane Soldera discussed due dates with the members of Committee regarding Outstanding Business Items “G”, “H” & “M”.

Joe Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services and Larry Friday, Director of Taxation provided a verbal update to the Committee regarding Item “K”, Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental. They explained that MPAC no longer captures tenant information and therefore they can not provide this information to Committee.

Councillor McHattie noted the importance of this information and suggested that MPAC should be requested to re-instate this information.

Members of Committee concurred and approved a motion as noted as Item 5 of this report.

(Jackson/Morelli)
That the Outstanding Business List be amended as follows;

- Outstanding Business List Item G, Strengthening Hamilton’s Community Initiative, due date changed to October 24, 2006.
- Outstanding Business List Item K., respecting the Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental was noted as being complete and removed from the list;
- Outstanding Business Item M, respecting Residential Care Facilities was assigned the due date of October 24, 2006

CARRIED

(g) Adjournment (Item 13)

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
September 12, 2006

Council – September 13, 2006
September 12, 2006

Honourable Christopher Bentley
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Mowat Block, 3rd floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Re: Labour Market Development Agreement

On behalf of Hamilton City Council, we respectfully request that you include Ontario’s municipalities in the crucial planning phase for implementation of the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

The Province of Ontario is the last to sign such an agreement with the Government of Canada. Ontario is unique in that the delivery of social assistance and employment programs is delivered at a municipal level and cost-shared with the Province. Municipalities in Ontario have a vested interest in labour force development, as a key economic strategy, as well as for community health and well being. Municipalities need to have a direct and active role in the planning process for the LMDAs where their interests, responsibilities, needs and expertise will have a positive impact on the outcome – an integrated employment support system that is accountable and effective.

Municipalities already have a well-established relationship with the Ministry of Community and Social Services; working together on planning and implementing policy changes and projects for both the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs. We are set to work equally effectively with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in responding to the employment services planning needs for the recently signed LMDA. We are requesting that municipal representatives be included at the provincial planning table in order to provide input on local capacity building. We also request that the City of Hamilton provide leadership to the planning process for the design of the transition and rollout of new initiatives at a local level.

The City of Hamilton, as a Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), has functioned as an effective planner and service provider for local employment services for many decades. We are aware of and responsive to the economic development and labour force development needs within our own community.

CMSM’s are the direct link to the long-term success of the One-Stop Service concept that is being planned by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Hamilton’s Ontario Works Employment Services and the Career Development Centre provide the following attributes, which will meet those challenges:
• single access point to employment services;
• physical and functional hub of service;
• services to address barriers to employment such as childcare and housing;
• knowledge and support of the “hidden supply” workforce;
• strong leverage of economic development interests through established partnerships with businesses and employers; and,
• decades of experience translating provincial program objectives into local employment strategies.

I look forward to discussion and collaboration, regarding this very important matter, which will have an impact on the level of service, training and employment opportunities for all citizens in the City of Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Larry DiIanni, Mayor
City of Hamilton

cc: Local Area MPPs
   Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
   Association of Municipalities of Ontario
   Mary Burnett, Municipal Program Manager, Ministry of Community and Social Services