Social Services Committee
REPORT 06-007
9:30 a.m.
May 23, 2006
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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

Also Present:
G. Peace, City Manager
J. Priel, General Manager, V. Woodcox, C. Buffett, D. Brodati, K. Extance, Community Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL & SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-007 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Update on Access To Housing – Co-ordinated Access Waiting List for Social Housing (SSC06013) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

That Report SSC06013 entitled Update on Access to Housing – Co-ordinated Access Waiting List for Social Housing be received for information.

2. On Any Given Night: Measuring Homelessness in Hamilton (SSC06014) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)

That Report SSC06014 entitled On Any Given Night: Measuring Homelessness in Hamilton be received for information.

3. The Hamilton HomeStart Program: Promoting First-Time Homeownership For CityHousing Hamilton Social Housing Tenants (SSC06012) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(a) That Council endorse the establishment and delivery of the Hamilton HomeStart Program to transition CityHousing Hamilton social housing tenants into first-time homeownership.

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(b) That the Municipal Capital Facility By-law No. 03-148 be amended to incorporate homeownership, attached as Appendix A to report SSC06012, and that the amended by-law, which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be introduced for approval by City Council.

(c) That the “Hamilton Convert-to-Rent Program” Project No. 102046 be closed and the funds transferred to a new “Hamilton HomeStart Program”.

(d) That the “Housing Hamilton Innovations Fund” Project No. 6290341102, be closed and the funds transferred to the “Hamilton HomeStart Program”.

(e) That Staff be authorized to disburse funds from the Hamilton HomeStart Program upon completion of the minimum requirements for participants and as other eligibility conditions are satisfied.

(f) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any further documentation which, in the opinion of the City Solicitor, may be required to implement the above recommendations.

4. 100% and Other Funded Positions (City Wide) (SSC06016) (Item 8.2)

That Report SSC06016 entitled 100% and Other Funded Positions be received for information.

5. Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy

That G.R.I.D.S. include a provision for Social Services in New Community Designs, and Development to include but not be restricted to Group Homes, Emergency Shelters, Youth Drop-in Centres, Methadone Clinics and Food Banks.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

The Committee approved that agenda as presented.

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(b) Declaration of Interest
None

(c) Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

(d) Staff Presentations

On Any Given Night: Measuring Homelessness in Hamilton (SSC06014) (City Wide) (Item 6.1)

David Brodati made a PowerPoint presentation and noted the key factors influencing homelessness in Hamilton. A copy of Mr. Brodati’s presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

Committee received the staff information report and approved the following motion;

(Merulla/McHattie)
Whereas the City of Hamilton has taken initiatives to mitigate costs through preventative services;

Whereas the minimum wage amount vs. the housing wage is profoundly polarized;

Whereas approximately 50% of renters are at risk of homelessness as a result of spending more than 30% of their income on shelter;

Whereas the City of Hamilton has control of censuring a fair wage policy which would be in line with housing wages which would mitigate the homeless risk in the City of Hamilton;

Whereas the City of Hamilton has a significant challenge in providing Social Services with a profound impact on taxes through the general levy;

Whereas the hourly wage of most privatized positions falls below the $15.21 hourly housing wage;

Therefore be it resolved that staff be directed to evaluate a Fair Wage Policy within the Corporations R.F.P. process in order to mitigate the risk of homelessness and the increased demand on the City of Hamilton’s Social Services Budget.

CARRIED
The Hamilton HomeStart Program: Promoting First-Time Homeownership For CityHousing Hamilton Social Housing Tenants (SSC06012) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Keith Extance provided an overview of the Hamilton HomeStart Program whereby the City will provide a matching grant of up to $4,500.00 as a down payment for CityHousing Hamilton tenants at the time they purchase their first home.

Committee approved the staff recommendation.

Motions (Item 9)

Chair Bratina relinquished the chair to Councillor McHattie and introduced a motion that was approved as Item 5 of this report.

Councillor Bratina resumed the Chair.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
May 23, 2006