To: Chair and Members
Planning & Economic Development Committee
Outstanding Business Item No. L and Issue: CLCs for Various Facilities
PED06088

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Re: Community Liaison Committees for Various Facilities (PED06088) (City Wide)

Council Direction:

Staff to review whether Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) would be beneficial for group homes and other similar facilities and report back. Staff was also requested to include information on operating history, principles and future plans of such agencies.

Information:

Community Liaison Committees are often found in municipalities such as Saskatoon that have a community development function as part of the services they deliver whereby community members are engaged with staff to help deal with solutions to issues within their neighbourhood. The City of Hamilton does not have a Community Development Program and, is therefore, not resourced to set up Community Liaison Committees. Even if the City was resourced to provide such a function, staff would not recommend that it be used in the context suggested under the Council direction noted above. The intent of group homes and other similar facilities is to locate them in neighbourhoods in harmony with the surrounding development. These homes are intended to be integrated within the community so most people do not even know that they exist. In addition, CLC work should not focus on vulnerable populations or social agencies but rather should have an intersectoral responsibility that would include businesses, agencies, organizations, school boards, communities, etc, to deal with broader issues. However, as noted above, the City is not resourced to provide the intersectoral community development function.
In the event that there is a very unique situation that would warrant a CLC such as the case with the Loretto site where there is a rezoning application and the implementation of conditions from an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing where resources are already committed, then the creation of such a Committee could be contemplated for a specific task and for a specific period of time on a unique case-by-case basis.

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LAC:cad