Council Direction:

Public Works Committee, at its meeting of April 19, 2010, approved a Community Garden Policy (PW10044)(City Wide) (Item 7.1) with recommendation d) That the matter of a Community Garden Co-ordinator be referred to the Community Food Security Stakeholders Committee for discussion and possible funding source(s) and reported back to the Board of Health.

Information:

In May, members of the Community Food Security Stakeholders Committee (CFSSC) met with representatives from the Hamilton Community Garden Network, Green Venture, Lansdale Neighbourhood Association, Public Health and Public Works to coordinate a grant proposal plan for the proposed Community Garden Coordinator position.

A list of possible funding sources was compiled and it was decided to initially pursue funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation with a collaborative application.

Green Venture staff took the lead on the proposal writing. Staff from Public Health Services and members of the CFSSC contributed to the proposal and helped with the editing.

The Garden Collective Project proposal was submitted for the July 1, 2010 application deadline and the grant was approved and announced November 30, 2010.

A total of $68,000 was awarded for a one year contract for a staff position, materials, administration, and evaluation. This is less than the requested $131,600.00 over a two year period.
The Hamilton Chapter of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) agreed to be the lead applicant and to act as the flow-through agency for funds.

A Project Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the CFSSC including members of the Hamilton Community Garden Network, will oversee the project.

On December 6, 2010, the Project Advisory Committee selected Green Venture to be the organization that would house the coordinator position.

Green Venture has agreed to:

1. Oversee the development and implementation of the project.
2. Hire/supervise/monitor contract project staff.
3. Provide the expertise of in house program development & delivery.
4. Regularly report on project progress.
5. Undertake program evaluation.
6. Provide volunteers for program delivery.
7. Communicate publicly on behalf of the project.

Year 1 expected results with performance indicators:

- **Expected Results:** To build community awareness, engagement, leadership and skill sharing among community members.
  - Performance Indicators: A framework is developed and implemented to deliver educational activities designed for Community Garden coordinators, participants, volunteers and the general public. At least 10 mentoring relationships are in place between established and emerging community garden coordinators. At least four workshops on topics related to community gardening with at least 50 participants are conducted.

- **Expected Results:** Improve capacity of existing and emerging community gardens to source funding and in-kind resources.
  - Performance Indicators: At least four new community gardens are established by the end of Year 1. At least five private/corporate sponsorships are secured. A clear fund raising, community outreach and marketing plan is developed and submitted with Year 1 progress report.

- **Expected Results:** Decrease barriers associated with establishing and maintaining community gardens particularly among marginalized groups through improved communications among participants, partners and the greater community.
  - Performance Indicators: At least three community outreach sessions are conducted in marginalized neighbourhoods in Hamilton. At least 60% of participants in new community gardens come from new and/or marginalized neighbourhoods.

Progress will be reviewed throughout 2011, and a summary of results will be shared with the Board of Health at the end of the year.