SUBJECT: Establishment of a Supplement/Housing Allowance Reserve Account for a Portion of the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters Program Funds (CS09023) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That $1.29 million of the $6.58 million, of the federal funding for the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters Program, be placed in a Rent Supplement/Housing Allowance Reserve Account.

Joe-Anne Priel,
General Manager
Community Services Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On March 26, 2008, Council approved the allocation of $1.29 million from the federal Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters (DOOR) funding for a rent supplement/housing allowance program (Report ECS08007). In order to implement this direction, staff is recommending that a reserve account be set-up and the funds transferred to that account.

BACKGROUND:

The Province provided $6.58 million of federal funding to the City of Hamilton under the DOORS Program. On March 26, 2008, Council approved the following (Report ECS08007):
SUBJECT: Establishment of a Supplement/Housing Allowance Reserve Account for a Portion of the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters Program Funds (CS09023) (City Wide)

(a) That $2 million of the $6.58 million of the federal funding for the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters program be placed in the existing Social Housing Capital Reserve – Account 112248.

(b) That $3.29 million (one-half) of the $6.58 million federal funding for the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters program be made available for housing and homelessness-related programs, using the existing process established under the federal Homelessness Partnership Initiative.

(c) That the General Manager of the Community Services Department, be authorized and directed to approve funding allocations, utilizing the $3.29 million of the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters program funding, for housing and homelessness related initiatives.

(d) That $1.29 million dollars of the $6.58 million of the federal funding for the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters program be utilized for rent supplement/housing allowance.

The establishment of reserve account, specific to this initiative, will enable staff to carry out the direction of Council as shown in recommendation (d) above, in a more effective manner.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The $1.29 million funding for rent supplement/housing allowances could remain in the existing account established for the DOOR program (#112239), but it would be administratively more efficient to establish an account specifically for rent supplement/housing allowance purposes. This would allow other rent supplement/housing allowance funding to be placed in the same account, interest earned to be allocated to that specific funding, and the tracking of rent supplement/housing allowance expenditures would be streamlined.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

None.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial:
There is no impact to the City levy.
SUBJECT: Establishment of a Supplement/Housing Allowance Reserve Account for a Portion of the Developing Opportunities for Ontario Renters Program Funds (CS09023) (City Wide)

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with the recommendation of Report CS09023.

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation of Report CS09023.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL: None.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION: Corporate Services Department, Budgets & Finance Division, Finance & Administration Section.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT: By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No