To: Chair and Members  
Social Services Committee

From: Paul Johnson, Chair  
Food Shelter and Housing (to be signed by the Chair)

Date: September 20, 2006

Re: Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee (SSC06029)

Recommendation:

That the continued operation of the Food Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee be approved for the next term of City Council.

Background:

The Food Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee (FSHAC) is a longstanding volunteer citizen committee that informs Council (through the Social Services Standing Committee) of issues or policies that impact persons or communities for whom barriers exist to income security, food security and access to safe, accessible, adequate shelter and permanent housing. The Committee also provides a forum for intergovernmental and community partner discussion on these matters, and ensures that the perspectives of persons (clients) and communities who are experiencing these barriers are taken into consideration in the review of relevant City policies and programs.

The objectives of FSHAC also include:

- To ensure that Committee discussions and recommendations are inclusive of other important and related issues such as emergency food, legal advice, income support, and assistance with employment, child care, transportation and health care.

- To advocate for an approach to physical planning that provides for diverse, accessible, affordable and safe neighbourhoods.

- To ensure that issues specific to homelessness (both relative and absolute) are included and promoted.

- To ensure that the perspectives of persons (clients) and communities who are experiencing these critical needs or barriers are taken into consideration.
Analysis/Rationale:

FSHAC has been active for more than twenty years, and believes that it should continue so that it can continue to inform the new Council of these issues that are critical to the community of Hamilton.