Present: Councillors S. Duvall, (Chair), R. Pasuta (1st Vice Chair), S. Merulla (2nd Vice Chair), T. Jackson, M. McCarthy, B. McHattie and B. Morelli

Also Present: Councillors B. Bratina and C. Collins
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
B. Browett, Acting Director, Hamilton Emergency Services
A. Bradford, Director, Culture
G. Hendry, Director, Social Housing and Homelessness
B. Kreps, Manager, Homelessness
C. Gallimore, Senior Policy Analyst
K. Extance, Acting CEO/Director, CityHousing Hamilton
J. Soldera, Director, Social Development & Early Childhood Services
S. Paparella, Legislative Assistant, City Clerk’s Office

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Termination of Subsidy Agreement for St. Clair Lodge (CS09071) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

(Morelli/Merulla)
That Report CS09071 - Termination of Subsidy Agreement for St. Clair Lodge, be received.

CARRIED
2. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program: 2009-10 Budget Allocation (CS09074) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)

(Merulla/Jackson)
(a) That the 2009-10 Budget Allocation of $1,515,000 for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as noted below and in the Supplemental Agreement, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09074, be received:

(i) Homeowner RRAP $490,000  
(ii) Disabled RRAP $225,000  
(iii) Rental RRAP $700,000  
(iv) Rooming House RRAP $100,000  

(b) That the City of Hamilton continue its role of Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program Delivery Agent for the 2009-10 delivery year and the Mayor and City Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the Supplemental Agreement (attached as Appendix A to Report CS09074) in a form satisfactory to Corporate Counsel.

(c) That Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation be requested to allocate an additional $2.5 million for the Rental Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program to improve the condition of the aging multi-residential housing stock in Hamilton and enhance the quality-of-life of lower-income tenants.

CARRIED

3. Beach Canal Light Station Operational Study and Heritage Building Assessment (CS09068) (Ward 5) (Item 7.4)

(Morelli/Merulla)
(a) That the Beach Canal Light Station Operational Study and Heritage Building Assessment (attached as Appendix A to Report CS09068), be received.

(b) That staff be directed to investigate the terms to transfer ownership of the Beach Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keeper’s Cottage from the Federal Government to the City of Hamilton and report to Emergency & Community Services Committee.

(c) That staff be directed to apprise David Sweet, Minister of Parliament, of the status of the Beach Canal Lighthouse project and federal negotiations respecting same.

(d) That Councillor C. Collins be kept apprised of the project and be invited to attend meetings, with the Federal Government, respecting the Beach Canal Lighthouse project.
(e) That Item “F” – Beach Canal Lighthouse Group Presentation, be considered complete and removed from the Emergency & Community Services Committee’s Outstanding Business List.

AMENDMENT CARRIED
MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

4. Emergency Food System Strategic Directions (CS09072) (City Wide) (Item 7.5)

(Morelli/Merulla)
(a) That the “No One Goes Hungry: Strategic Directions for Hamilton’s Emergency Food System Plan 2010-2012” attached as Appendix A to Report CS09072, be approved.

(b) That staff and the Emergency Food System Planning Team be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on or before October 20, 2010, to provide an update on the implementation of “No One Goes Hungry: Strategic Directions for Hamilton’s Emergency Food System Plan 2010-2012”.

(c) That funds in the amount of $45,000, to be funded from the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program, be provided to Hamilton Food Share in support of its member agency’s 2009 Christmas Hamper Program.

(d) That an additional $55,000, to be funded from the Corporate Strategic Initiatives fund, be provided to Hamilton Food Share in support of its member agency’s 2009 Christmas Hamper Program.

(e) That Item “I” – Strategic Plan for the Emergency Food Sector, be considered complete and removed from the Emergency & Community Services Committee’s outstanding business list.

AMENDMENT CARRIED
MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

5. Human Services Planning Initiative Update (CS09070) (City Wide) (Item 7.6)

(McHattie/Jackson)
That funding in the amount of $200,000, for the implementation of next phase of the Human Services Planning Initiative, be referred to the 2010 capital budget process.

CARRIED
6. Implementation Strategy for the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services (CS09015(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(Pasuta/McCarthy)
(a) That the Implementation Strategy for the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services (Blueprint) (attached as Appendix A to Report CS09015(a)) be approved.

(b) That the General Manager of Community Services be authorized and directed to provide additional funding to the four men’s emergency to cover up to 75% ($405,000), of their anticipated $540,000 2009 operating deficits, from funds transferred from the Domiciliary Hostels (Residential Care Facilities) Program, if approved by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

(c) That the Mayor correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services to request:

   (i) That the City of Hamilton be authorized to continue with the Hostels to Homes Funding model, which is to reinvest Provincial savings from the Emergency Hostels Program into supports for individuals exiting emergency shelters.

   (ii) That the Ministry of Community of Community and Social review and implement a viable and sustainable funding model for the operation of the Province’s Emergency Hostel System.

(d) That staff directed report back, to the Emergency & Community Services Committee, respecting the progress of the Implementation of the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services (attached as Appendix A to Report CS09015(a)) on or before June 16, 2010.

   CARRIED

7. Transition of First Place Hamilton to CityHousing Hamilton (CS09073) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

(Jackson/Merulla)
That Report CS09073 – Transition of First Place Hamilton to CityHousing Hamilton, be received.

   CARRIED

8. Enhanced Employment Services Funding (CS09083) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

(McCarthy/Pasuta)
That authority be delegated to the General Manager of Community Services to approve applications for employment services to be funded through the provincial Enhanced Employment Services program.

   CARRIED
FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

(ii) Added as Item 4.2 – Tom Cooper, on behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Direction (no copy)

(iii) Added as Item 8.3 – Enhanced Employment Services Funding (CS09083) (City Wide)

(iv) Item 7.1 – Hamilton Veterans’ Committee’s Annual Presentation, has been postponed to the New Year.

(Pasuta/Morelli)
That the agenda for the November 18, 2009 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee be approved, as amended.  

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

(c) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

3.1 October 21, 2009

(Pasuta/Morelli)
That the Minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee be approved, as presented.  

CARRIED

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

4.1 Michelle Hruschka, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare, respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Directions

(Merulla/Jackson)
That the delegation request made by Michelle Hruschka, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare, respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Directions, be approved.  

CARRIED
4.2 Tom Cooper, on behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Direction

(Merulla/Jackson)
That the delegation request made by Tom Cooper, on behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Direction, be approved.  
\textbf{CARRIED}

(e) Minutes of Various Advisory Committees (Items 5.3)

(Merulla/Morelli)
That the following Advisory Committee Minutes be received:

(i) Hamilton Historical Board, July 14 2009
(ii) Hamilton Historical Board, September 15, 2009
(iii) Arts Advisory Commission, August 25, 2009
(iv) Arts Advisory Commission, September 22, 2009
(v) Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee, September 15, 2009
(vi) Seniors Advisory Committee, July 3, 2009
(vii) Seniors Advisory Committee, September 11, 2009
(viii) Seniors Advisory Committee, October 2, 2009

\textbf{CARRIED}

(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

6.1 Michelle Hruschka, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare, respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Directions

Ms. Hruschka’s comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- The number of Employment Insurance claims and Ontario Works caseloads has grown, and that funds received by EI and OW do not provide enough money to recipients to live on.
- We feel that food banks are not the answer to the ever growing hunger crisis among Hamilton's 20% or higher, who live in poverty.
- While we warmly welcome the news of Ontario Works' $200,000 pilot project of food vouchers, this amount will not even touch the surface for
We feel the report does not sufficiently address the need to plan toward food security, which does not depend on food banks.

We are concerned that Foodshare is requesting $100,000 from the City; we feel that this request should be to the province.

We are very concerned about the make up of the members of the Emergency Food Planning Committee because it does not include those from low income nor does it include all the food banks in the city.

Some food banks restrict people from getting food through a MEANS test, proper identification or proof that they are hungry.

(Jackson/Pasuta)
That the presentation, made by Michelle Hruschka, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare, respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Directions, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 Tom Cooper, on behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Direction

Mr. Cooper’s comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

A national survey of food bank usage was released *(November 17, 2009)* with some very disturbing findings. HungerCount 2009, coordinated by Food Banks Canada, says the 18% increase in usage in March 2009, compared to March 2008 is the largest recorded since the organization began measuring demand in 1997.

More people than ever before are utilizing food banks across the country and, perhaps most disturbing, children recorded the highest increase among any group of food bank users.

Almost 800,000 people went to food banks across the country in May and one person in 10 was making their first visit.

Demand for food bank supplies has increased while there has been a slight reduction in donations from businesses and individuals. Things will only get worse before they get better.
• Hamilton’s jobless rate is the highest it’s been in many years at 9.1%; Ontario Works caseloads have risen by close to 23% in 2009; and, Employment Insurance claims are up 150%.

• At last count, there were more than 16,000 EI claimants in Hamilton (three times higher than it was a year ago). Once those benefits run out, and if jobs are not available, even more families will be relying on community supports such as Ontario Works and food banks.

• It is evident that we need a long term solution to address Hamilton’s emergency food system we also need an interim solution to stop what’s happening now.

• The Roundtable on Poverty Reduction believes the report (CS09072 - Emergency Food System Strategic Direction) will address some of the issues.

• As a community we need to tackle the root causes of hunger, which means addressing the adequacy of incomes, including the realization that senior levels of government must take greater responsibility to provide families with adequate levels of social assistance.

We need to stress the importance of liveable incomes, affordable housing and food security for all of our residents.

(Morelli/McHattie)
That the presentation, made by Tom Cooper, on behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting Item 7.5 – Emergency Food System Strategic Direction, be received.

CARRIED

(g) Hamilton Veteran’s Committee – Annual Presentation (Item 7.1)

This Item was postponed to a meeting in the New Year.

(h) Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee – Annual Presentation (09-001) (Item 7.2)

Katie Schotsman, a member of the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Committee. Katie’s comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

• The Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee’s role is to engage, inform and involve youth respecting the activities that are occurring and available within the community.
• Promoting active citizenship and leadership in contributing to the decisions made within the City of Hamilton. Ensuring youth are involved in decisions made within the City and community.

• Provide a youth perspective to the Mayor, members of Council and City staff.

• Inform and involve other youth, and address issues identified by youth.

• Enhancing opportunities, relationships, collaboration and youth focused events and activities.

• 2009 Activities and Achievements included: Play Works, The Ontario Partnership for Active Youth; consultations; and, branding and website development.

• Events: Hamilton’s Green Future Event and Youth Poverty & Homelessness Project

(Jackson/Merulla)
That the annual presentation, provided by Katie Schotsman, on behalf of the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee, be received.

CARRIED

(i) Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee – Annual Presentation (Item 7.3)

Mr. Ron Sharegan, Chair of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee, provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Sharegan’s advised of some of the Committee’s achievements to-date:

• Identified challenges relating to eligibility criteria for laid-off workers to access Ontario Works while Employment Insurance applications pending.

• Citizen Committee report went to the Emergency & Community Services Committee recommending advocacy to the Province for changes to Employment Insurance eligibility criteria.

• Provided input to Community Services Department staff regarding local rules for Provincial Rent Bank Program.

• Participated in the review of Homelessness Partnership Strategy Community Plan.

• Participated in consultation regarding Housing Targets for Hamilton’s Official Plan.
• Member agencies worked with City of Hamilton to develop Emergency Food Strategic Directions.

• Provided recommendations regarding funding for services to refugee claimants.

• Provided recommendations for the review of Everyone Has A Home Strategic Plan.

(McHattie/Morelli)
That the annual presentation, provided by Ron Sharegan, on behalf of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee, be received.  
CARRIED

(j) Beach Canal Light Station Operational Study and Heritage Building Assessment (CS09068) (Ward 5) (Item 7.4)

Councillor M. McCarthy requested to be recorded as OPPOSED to Report CS09068, as shown in Item 4 above.

(Morelli/Merulla)
That the presentation, provided by Anthony Butler of the Beach Canal Lighthouse Group, be received.  
CARRIED

(k) Emergency Food System Strategic Directions (CS09072) (City Wide) (Item 7.5)

Brian Kreps, Manager of Homelessness, and Joanne Santucci, of Foodshare, provided a PowerPoint presentation and overview of Report CS09072.

(l) Human Services Planning Initiative Update (CS09070) (Item 7.6)

Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager of the Community Services Department, Christina Gallimore, Senior Policy Analyst, Social Development and Paul Johnson, of Wesley Urban Ministries, provided a PowerPoint presentation and overview of Report CS09070.

(m) Outstanding Business List Items requiring Approval for Proposed New Due Dates (Item 11.1)

(Jackson/Pasuta)
That the proposed new due dates, for the following Emergency & Community Services Committee Outstanding Business list Items, be approved:
Committee Minutes

(a) Item “G” – City of Hamilton Events Strategy
Current Due Date: November 18, 2009
Proposed New Due Date: February 17, 2010

(b) Item “J” – Call for Action – Recreation, Parks and Sports Infrastructure Funding
Current Due Date: November 18, 2009
Proposed New Due Date: March 3, 2010

(c) Item “K” – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Needs Assessment
Current Due Date: November 4, 2009
Proposed New Due Date: March 3, 2010

(d) Item “S” – Auchmar Estate – Business Plan
Current Due Date: November 18, 2009
Proposed New Due Date: February 17, 2010

CARRIED

(n) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

(McCarthy/McHattie)
There being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Duvall, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Assistant
November 18, 2009