Emergency & Community Services Committee
REPORT 07-003
Wednesday, February 21, 2007
1:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall

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

Also Present: J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services Department
J. Kay, General Manager/Chief Hamilton Emergency Services
J. Soldera, Director, Social Development & Early Childhood Services
B. Fenwick, Director, Culture & Recreation Division
S. Paparella, Legislative Assistant, Clerk’s Office

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 07-003 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP): 2006-07 Budget Allocation and the New Two-Year Program Extension (ECS07003) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

   (a) That the City of Hamilton continue its role of Residential Rehabilitation and Assistance Program (RRAP) Delivery Agent for the 2006-07 delivery year.

   (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

   (c) That the Mayor send a letter, on behalf of City Council, to the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with a copy to all local Members of Provincial Parliament to:

      (i) Express the City of Hamilton’s gratitude for receiving additional RRAP funding in the amount of $414,000 for the 2006-07 delivery years, and for the announcement on December 19, 2006, respecting the extension of the RRAP for an additional two-year period; and,
(ii) Request that an annual RRAP Budget Allocation of $3.0 million be provided to the City of Hamilton; in order that the City may positively respond to the hardship faced by low-income homeowners and tenants in our community.

2. Brian Decker, of the Hamilton Tennis Club, requesting to speak before Committee respecting Funding to Resurface Courts 7 and 8 at the Hamilton Tennis Club (Item 6.2)

   (a) That the presentation be received.

   (b) That the presentation, which includes the request made by the Hamilton Tennis Club for a funding in the amount of $57,000 to resurface courts 7 and 8 with clay, be referred to the 2007 Budget deliberations for consideration.

3. City of Hamilton Social Inclusion Policy (ECS07014) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

   That the Emergency and Community Services Committee support the development of a Social Inclusion Policy for the City of Hamilton.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

   The Committee Clerk noted the following changes to the agenda:

   (i) Added as Item 4.1 – A delegation request made by Paul Johnson, Chair of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee wishing to speak at the March 21, 2007 Committee meeting respecting an upcoming staff report on the Strategic Plan on Homelessness, which is due to be presented on March 21, 2007.

   (ii) Item 6.1 on today’s agenda – Josie d’Amico, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Advocacy Role of Council, with the Provincial and Federal Governments, on Matters Related to Poverty, has requested that the delegation be postponed until March 21st.

   (iii) Added as Item 7.1 – a Staff Presentation respecting the Child Care Fee Subsidy Income Test
(iv) Added as Item 10.1 – a Notice of Motion by Councillor B. McHattie respecting Fires in Westdale Area Student Housing

The February 21, 2006 agenda of the Emergency & Community Services Committee was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

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

The Minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

(d) A Delegation Request made by Paul Johnson, Chair of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee wishing to speak at the March 21, 2007 Committee meeting respecting an upcoming staff report on the Strategic Plan on Homelessness, which is due to be presented on March 21, 2007 (Item 4.1)

The request made by Paul Johnson, Chair of the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee wishing to speak at the March 21, 2007 Committee meeting respecting an upcoming staff report on the Strategic Plan on Homelessness, which is due to be presented on March 21, 2007, was approved.

(e) Josie d’Amico and Mary Lee requesting to speak at the February 21, 2007 Committee Meeting, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Advocacy Role of Council, with the Provincial and Federal Governments, on Matters Related to Poverty (Item 6.1)

The request, made by Josie d’Amico, of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Advocacy Role of Council, to have the delegation postponed to March 21, 2007, was approved.

(f) Brian Decker, of the Hamilton Tennis Club, respecting Funding to Resurface Courts 7 and 8 at the Hamilton Tennis Club (Item 6.2)

Brian Decker, of the Hamilton Tennis Club, provided a presentation to Committee in support of their request for $57,000 in funding to resurface courts 7 and 8 with clay.
(g) Child Care Fee Subsidy Income Test (Item 7.1)

Jane Soldera, Director of Social Development and Early Childhood Services, provided Committee with a presentation respecting the Child Care Fee Subsidy Income Test. The presentation outlined the provincial rationale for moving to Income Test, the Needs Test versus the Income Test, anticipated impacts on clients, how the Income Test works and its impacts on demand for fee subsidies, as well as staff's early observations.

The next steps summarized were: to review the local policies and recommendations to Council; consultation regarding the waitlist policy; caseload and budget monitoring to analyze impact; child care system business process review; and, staff will continue to work closely with the Province will report to Council, as required.

The presentation respecting the Child Care Fee Subsidy Income Test was received.

(h) NOTICE OF MOTION (Item 10.1)

Councillor B. McHattie presented the following Notice of Motion:

Fires in Westdale Area Student Housing

WHEREAS, there have been three fires in student housing in the Westdale area surrounding McMaster University in the past 16 months, and

WHEREAS, the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc. (AWWCA) have been concerned for years about the condition of homes, which have been converted into student rentals, and believe that the situation is becoming more critical, and;

WHEREAS, on behalf of almost 19,000 undergraduate students, the McMaster Students Union (MSU), has requested that the City of Hamilton provide assistance by offering fire inspections to ensure that student housing is meeting code and that these homes are safe for residency, believing that the condition of some student homes are especially dangerous and may contain violations of the fire code.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Hamilton Emergency Services be directed to work with the Ward 1 Councillor, the AWWCA, and the MSU to undertake a pilot project in which ten (10) to fifteen (15) houses in Ainslie Wood and Westdale are selected for thorough inspection to identify typical hazards in student houses.
(i) **Outstanding Business List - Item “C” – Hamilton Farmers’ Market Improvements** (Due: Feb. 21/06) Proposed *New Due Date: March 21, 2007*

Staff requested that a due date of May 23, 2007 for this Item, be approved.

The new date of May 23, 2007 for Outstanding Business List Item “C” - Hamilton Farmers’ Market Improvements, was approved.

(j) **PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL – APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

The Closed Session Minutes of the January 17, 2007 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

The January 17, 2007 minutes, of the Emergency & Community Services Committee, will remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure, in accordance with exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

(k) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Merulla, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Assistant
February 21, 2007