

CITY OF BURNABY

HOUSING COMMITTEE

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*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: SENIORS HOUSING INFORMATION PROGRAM - REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Housing Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2004 October 26, received and adopted the *attached* report regarding options for supporting the Seniors Housing Information Program. The Committee noted several options available to the City including advocacy, funding (e.g. Community Grants program), and cooperation (e.g. support in kind). Notwithstanding these options it is clear that SHIP would still need to pursue sustaining funding from other sources. It is also clear that, while Burnaby has a history of supporting valuable community services, such as those being offered by SHIP, the City lacks the resources or mandate to provide the same level of support that senior levels of government can and should provide.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
HOUSING COMMITTEE 2004 October 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 16000 20

SUBJECT: SENIORS HOUSING INFORMATION PROGRAM - REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with requested information pertaining to a request for support from the Seniors Housing Information Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the 2004 September 28 meeting of the Housing Committee, Val MacDonald of the Seniors Housing Information Program (SHIP) appeared as a delegation to provide an overview of her program, and to request support for continuation of its client outreach service. The Committee requested that staff prepare a report on options for supporting SHIP's client outreach service. This report responds to the Committee's request.

2.0 SHIP CLIENT OUTREACH SERVICE

The SHIP client outreach service started in January 2001, with funding from the Federal Government National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). The outreach program costs \$120,000 annually and focuses on helping seniors who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The outreach program's funding will finish in March 2006 and SHIP is exploring ways to sustain the service through partnerships and other funding sources.

The client outreach service has several functions:

1. ensure that seniors who are homeless or at risk of homelessness have access to safe and appropriate emergency housing;
2. assess the immediate and long term housing and service needs of homeless and at risk clients and refer as necessary;

3. assist clients in securing safe and appropriate long term housing; and
4. provide prevention services including intervention and mediation with landlords to prevent or postpone eviction.

Through its client outreach service, SHIP assisted 267 clients in the Lower Mainland in 2003/04. 36 of these clients were Burnaby residents referred to the service due to homeless or at risk factors.

The GVRD Regional Homelessness Plan identifies outreach as an effective method to provide services to homeless and at risk persons. SHIP, along with other homelessness service providers that received NHI funding, is looking at ways to continue its services after NHI funding is finished.

3.0 OPTIONS FOR CITY SUPPORT

As noted, in her presentation to the Housing Committee, Ms. MacDonald asked that the City consider providing funding or other forms of support to ensure the continuation of the SHIP outreach program beyond March 2006.

Burnaby's Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies a range of potential roles that the City can play with respect to the provision of, or support for, community services. These include direct provider, cooperator, funder and advocate. With reference to the SHIP request, the most feasible options would appear to be advocacy, funding, and cooperation. These options are discussed below.

3.1 Advocacy

The City often advocates on matters of community importance. In the past year or so, for example, the City has advocated to senior levels of government on child care, health and hospital services, income assistance legislation, and other issues or policies affecting the well being of Burnaby residents.

Indeed, the City has already played an advocacy role with respect to the concerns raised by SHIP. At its 2004 October 18 meeting, Council adopted a recommendation from the Housing Committee (prompted by the delegation from SHIP) to send a letter to the Government of Canada requesting that NHI funding be continued beyond March 2006. The City also provided a letter to SHIP to support its SCPI application for outreach program funding.

3.2 Funding

The City receives many funding requests from community groups and agencies and has an annual Community Grants program for groups and agencies providing services to Burnaby residents. The program guidelines specify that community groups providing human services may be eligible for start-up funding toward overhead costs, but not for salaries or wages.

While decisions regarding Community Grant allocations ultimately rest with the Executive Committee and Council, it would appear that a grant application for the SHIP outreach program would fall outside the allocation guidelines. Further, Burnaby's community grants are typically of a nominal amount. Therefore, it is believed that SHIP would need to look elsewhere for funding to sustain its outreach program.

3.3 Cooperation

With respect to its cooperation role, the City could provide support in kind to SHIP (e.g. through City staff assistance with SHIP projects, provision of meeting or office space). Indeed, in 1995 City staff assisted SHIP with the preparation of a seniors housing needs study in Burnaby. The City also leases office space to community groups and agencies at the Edmonds and Burnaby Heights Resource Centres. Qualifying groups are eligible for a lease grant which offsets their lease rates by up to 50%. If, in the future, SHIP required space for its outreach program or another service, it would be eligible to apply for office space that comes available at the Resource Centres.

Before closing this discussion, it should be noted that support in kind, if provided, would only represent a small part of an organization's operation budget and core funding would be needed from other sources.

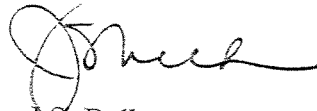
4.0 CONCLUSION

Ms. Val MacDonald appeared as a delegation at the 2004 September 28 Housing Committee meeting to provide information on the Seniors Housing Information Program's client outreach service targeted to homeless and at risk seniors. She noted that the Government of Canada National Homelessness Initiative funding will finish in March 2006 and requested that the City consider options to provide assistance to the SHIP outreach service.

In reviewing the request, it was determined that there are several options available to the City to support groups such as SHIP, including advocacy, funding (e.g. Community Grants program), and cooperation (e.g. support in kind). Notwithstanding these options it is clear that SHIP would still need to pursue sustaining funding from other sources. It is also clear that, while the City has a history of supporting valuable community services, such as those

being offered by SHIP, we lack the resources or mandate to provide the same level of support that senior levels of government can and should provide.

It is recommended that this report be received for information.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

SF/sa

cc: City Manager

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