

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee-
Administrative Report

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"

LiveLink REPORT #: 15249 SR2011	Report Date: April 21, 2011
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To: Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee

Subject: Employment Initiatives – Charles Clarke Square Concession

P&R 11-065

1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: _____ Ward(s): _____

To be RECEIVED by the Standing Committee FOR INFORMATION.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

The City of Windsor Recreation and Culture Department in partnership with various concession vendors offers the provisions of Food and Beverage services to the residents and visitors in numerous City Parks and public space locations, such as Reaume Park, Mic Mac Park, Charles Clarke Square, and Sandpoint Beach etc.

These locations offer items such as hot and cold beverages, hot dogs, chips, on a seasonal basis with varying hours of operation based on location and demand. Over the years it has become increasingly difficult for these vendors to successfully operate the location due to increasing product costs and operating expenses. As a result, Recreation and Culture has continued to work closely with these vendors to be flexible in order to continue to provide these services to our residents and visitors.

In April 2010, the Manager of Business Development and Community Facilities met with Chandra Dass, Assistant Executive Director and Roger Fordham from Windsor Downtown Mission in preliminary discussions regarding a non-traditional operation of the concession at Charles Clarke Square.

3. DISCUSSION:

As a result of a series of meetings, the existing program at the Downtown Mission of Culinary Assist Program was expanded to include the usage of Charles Clarke Square Concession known as the Snack Station. The program is a Basic Entry Level Kitchen Training Program that teaches and trains individuals in the handling of commercial kitchen utensils and equipment, maintenance and cleaning of grease traps, proper use of items such as deep fryers. In addition, 10 to 12 classes are offered in a team environment that provides skills training in Conflict Resolutions, Team Building, Resume Building, Labour Laws and Employee/Employer Expectations as well as complete the Food Handling Certification Course thru the Board of Health. Individuals for this program apply and come from various agencies such as Downtown Mission, St. Leonard, WEST, and YMCA and are often in Ontario Works or Ontario Disability supplements.

As a result of this City of Windsor Receptions Department's partnership with the Downtown Mission, trainees can now experience live/hands-on training that provide practical exercising of lessons learned and customer service skills building. Since the program became operational 13 individuals have graduated from the program. Of the 13, 6 are currently employed in food services and 2 have been accepted in the Culinary Program at St. Clair College. The remaining 5 are in the process of exploring employment opportunities with their new skills. In addition, as a result, 5 individuals are no longer receiving supplemental income.

The Downtown Mission has been able to double the capacity of their existing program due to the inclusion of the Snack Station at Charles Clarke Square. The next program is scheduled to begin in May 2011 and has 20-22 applicants to date. The Downtown Mission has indicated a strong interest in expanding the usage of other locations. Larger, similar programs operate in cities such as Ottawa successfully thru the Ottawa Mission.

In the Spring of 2011 as part of the Civic Esplanade project by the Planning Department 15 large movable planters, 4 steel waste receptacles, bike racks and 15 steel tables (9 six-seat and 6 three-seat) will be placed in Charles Clarke Square to enhance the resident and visitor experience.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

In speaking with the Downtown Mission, they have indicated a break-even position at the end of their winter operation and have plans to continue to operate over the 2011 spring/summer season.

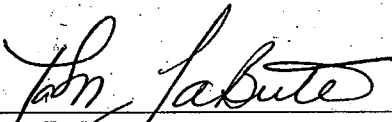
The City of Windsor receives monthly revenues for space usage for Charles Clarke Square of \$450 monthly plus H.S.T. as a result of this agreement.

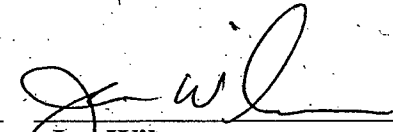
5. CONSULTATIONS:

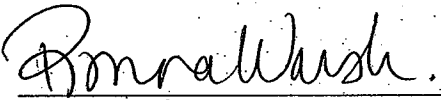
Windsor Downtown Mission

6. CONCLUSION:

Administration will continue to work closely with the Downtown Mission to ensure the continued success of this partnership as well as review opportunities as they arise from expanded initiatives.


Pam Labute
Acting Manager of Cultural Affairs


Jan Wilson
Executive Director of Recreation and Culture


Ronna Warsh
Community Development and Health Commissioner

PL:hg

APPENDICES:

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:

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NOTIFICATION :

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