

**REPORT NO. 105 of the
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE**
of its meeting held August 8, 2012

Present: Councillor Ed Sleiman, Vice Chair
Councillor Percy Hatfield
Councillor Hilary Payne
Councillor Alan Halberstadt

Regrets: Councillor Ron Jones

That the following recommendation of the Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee **BE APPROVED** as follows:

Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by Councillor Hatfield,
THAT City Council **APPROVE** the one time only allocation of \$60,000 of fiscal surplus funding from the Pathway to Potential funding to support the development of a community kitchen at the Unemployed Help Centre; and further

THAT the Community Development and Health Commissioner be **AUTHORIZED** to enter into an agreement with the Unemployed Help Centre in the amount of \$60,000 satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, in technical content to the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services and financial content to the City Treasurer.

Carried.

LIVELINK #16059, SS2012

Clerk's Note: The report authored by the Community Development & Health Commissioner dated July 12, 2012 entitled "Request for funds for a Community Kitchen – Unemployed Help Centre" is attached as background information.


VICE CHAIRPERSON


COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION:		
Name	Address	Email
June Muir		jmuir@uhc.ca

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 #: 16059 SS2012	Report Date: July 12, 2012
Author's Name: Debbie Cercone	Date to Standing Committee: August 8, 2012
Author's Phone: 519 255-5200 ext. 6239	Classification #:
Author's E-mail: dcercone@city.windsor.on.ca	

To: Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee

Subject: Request for funds for a Community Kitchen - Unemployed Help Centre

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

THAT City Council **APPROVE** the one time allocation of \$60,000 of fiscal surplus funding from the Pathway to Potential funding to support the development of a community kitchen at the Unemployed Help Centre; and further

THAT the Community Development and Health Commissioner be **AUTHORIZED** to enter into an agreement with the Unemployed Help Centre in the amount of \$60,000 satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, in technical content to the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services and financial content to the City Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

In April 2012, a meeting was held with staff from Employment and Social Services and the Unemployed Help Centre (UHC) to discuss their Food Rescue Program Proposal. UHC's proposal has within it 3 components:

1) **Refrigerated Truck and Mobile Food Bank.** UHC have secured, through a donation, a refrigerated truck that will allow them to pick up food donations from the community. The food would otherwise end up in landfills and now can be put on the plates of families and enjoyed. The trucks will also be utilized as a mobile food bank to deliver fresh and prepared foods to the community where access to a food bank is difficult. In terms of the Mobile Food Bank, research

has identified that tow cargo vans are required to be utilized as a Mobile Food Banks to deliver fresh and prepared foods to neighborhoods where access to a food bank is difficult due to transportation, hours of service, and limited availability of fresh and prepared foods. UHC will start to deliver food in the Glengarry and Bloomfield neighbourhoods and the vans will be secured in the fall of 2012.

2) **Food Rescue Program and Storage:** The refrigerated truck will allow them to increase the amount of fresh produce that would be picked up from farmers; to expand the rescue of uncontaminated prepared food which has never been served to the public and distribute it to the community.

3) **Community Kitchen:** The implementation of a community kitchen would be used to repackage the fresh and prepared foods that would be rescued from the community and to prepare them for distribution. The kitchen would also be used to preserve the goods through canning, vacuum sealing, and dehydration and would be equipped with a walk-in fridge/freezer. The kitchen will offer free cooking lessons as well as workshops on shopping tips to save individuals and their families money, understand nutritional facts on labels, to teach what basic foods to have on hand, and keeping and handling food safely for health living. The benefit to individuals will be that they will develop food skills over time that can lead them to long term sustainability. In addition, individuals will gain knowledge on nutrition that will help them stretch their limited food budgets. UHC has approached the Employment and Social Services department to enter into a partnership with Ontario Works Employment Assistance to offer a job placement opportunity in the community kitchen that will assist them in gaining some pre-employment experience in food handling. It is hoped that this experience will help individuals get the opportunity to seek employment in the food handling area.

All three of these components together will ensure food security on an ongoing basis.

3. DISCUSSION:

The Unemployed Help Centre has made a request to the City of Windsor for financial support in the amount of \$60,000 for one time funding to purchase equipment for the implementation of the Community Kitchen. The funding would be used to support the purchase of equipment for the kitchen that would include a food processor, range, sink, dishwasher, food dehydrator, vacuum seal machine, a cooler freezer, shelving, first aid kit and hand sinks.

Employment and Social Services will be entering into partnership with UHC to allow individuals who are in receipt of Ontario Works (OW) and who are looking for employment opportunities in the areas of customer service and food handling positions to obtain specialized certificate training and job placement experience opportunities. Currently 10 OW individuals are scheduled to start the customer service training program. The funding to support the infrastructure of the Community Kitchen project will support those opportunities for persons who are on OW. This will result in the potential for individuals to gain employment and financial independence while exiting from Ontario Works Financial Assistance in the future.

We are recommending that in-year surplus funding from the Pathway to Potential Poverty Reduction funding be used to support the Community Kitchen project as it is one time and not ongoing in nature. The goal of Pathway to Potential funding to provides supports to individuals to reduce the effects of poverty. This initiative would align with the intent of the Pathway to Potential funding as it would assist individuals, through skill development on a path that could potentially assist them to transition from Ontario Works Financial Assistance to employment.

The Unemployed Help Centre would be required, under the terms of the agreement, to comply with all accountability requirements for the funding.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

The Unemployed Help Centre has secured funding from a number of donors who have committed to this initiative and are in the process of securing further funding from more donors. If funding is not secured by UHC for their community kitchen the implementation will be delayed until sufficient funding can be raised to support the community kitchen.

The three year operating budget, provided by UHC, indicates a projected surplus the first year and minimal deficits the following two years. Based on the plan provided, the long term sustainability of the Community Kitchen project will require additional sources of income after three years.

The approval of this one-time request may bring forward other organizations that may make requests directly to Council for one-time funding in the future.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Based on the submitted capital budget the total budget for UHC's Community Kitchen initiative is \$874,389. To date they have secured \$553,500 in donations with about \$130,000 of the donations, at this time, anticipated but not secured (including the City of Windsor's \$60,000 funding request). The remaining amount of \$190,889 will be required to be raised to offset the capital expenses for the project.

Based on the submitted three year operating budget, the UHC's Community Kitchen projection for the first three years will result in a surplus in Year 1 and minimal deficits the following two years. The Community Kitchen project appears to be viable for the next three years if expenses and revenues are generated as planned. Long term, UHC will need to raise more income to ensure minimal deficits are not generated each year.

Funding for this one time request would be available from unused funds currently allocated to the Affordable Pass Program at Transit Windsor Pathway to Potential program. The program uptake for this program has progressively been improving but Transit Windsor has not required the use of their full allocation of \$375,741 in funding since 2009, therefore these funds can be directed to this project on a one time basis.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

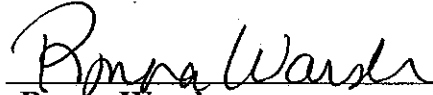
N.A

7. CONCLUSION:

Supporting the implementation of a Community Kitchen that will offer individuals to the opportunity to learn cooking skills, to learn strategies on how to save money, to teach what basic foods to have on hand, and how to keep and handle food safely for health living will be a benefit to individuals and families in need in the community. The partnership with Employment and Social Services to provide the opportunity for individuals in receipt of Ontario Works to gain experience that could lead them to employment and financial independence and exit the Ontario Works Financial Assistance program in the future.



for **Debbie Cercone**
Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services



Ronna Warsh
Community Development & Health Commissioner and Corporate Leader Social Development, Health, Recreation & Culture



Onorio Colucci
Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer & Corporate Leader Finance and Technology

APPENDICES: N/A

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:
Name: June Muir, CEO Unemployed Help Centre
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Name: Nancy Jaekel, Financial Planning Administrator
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Name: Bruno Ierullo, Executive Director of Employment and Social Services
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Name: Diane Quinn, Manager of Residential Support Services (Acting)
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NOTIFICATION :

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