

ADOPTED by Council at its meeting held January 6, 2014 [M18-2014]

RB

Windsor, Ontario, January 6, 2014

**REPORT NO. 196 of the  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,  
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
of its meeting held November 6, 2013

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**Present:**  
**Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair**  
**Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac**  
**Councillor Alan Halberstadt**  
**Councillor Fulvio Valentinis**

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

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Valentinis,  
THAT the 2013 Chairperson's Report for the Housing Advisory Committee **BE RECEIVED** for information.  
Carried.

*Clerk's Note:* The 2013 Chairperson's Report for the Housing Advisory Committee is attached as background information.

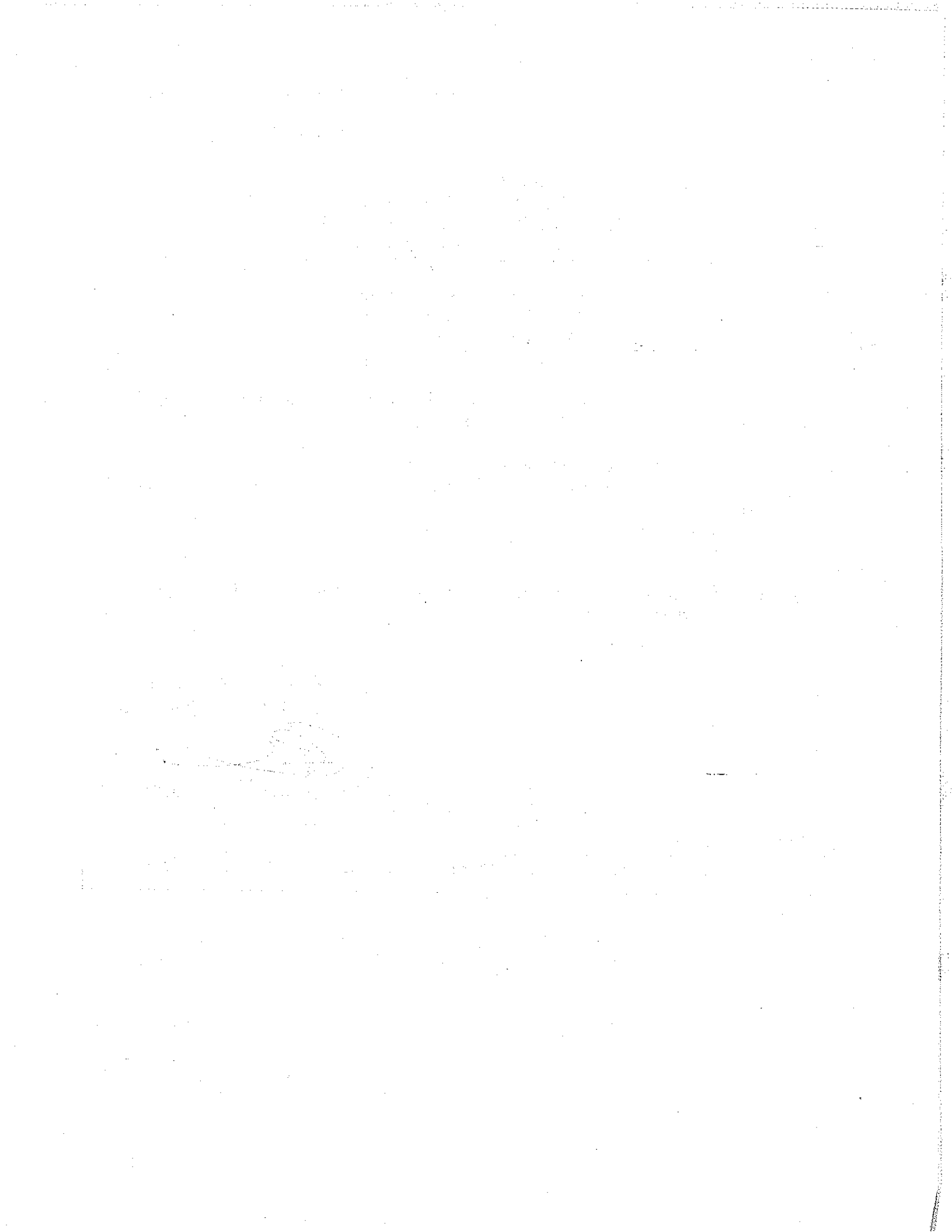


CHAIRPERSON



COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

<b>NOTIFICATION :</b>				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX
HAC membership				



**Housing Advisory Committee**  
**2013 Chairperson's Report to the Social Development, Health and Culture  
Standing Committee**

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**Background**

The mandate of the Housing Advisory Committee is to serve as an advisory body to City Council on issues relating to the supply, demand and need for additional affordable housing units; act as a medium for informational exchange with sector representatives on housing program initiatives and community issues; act as resource and advocate on behalf of all stakeholders to educate and advance the awareness of Council representatives on matters pertaining to housing in Windsor and Essex County.

The Housing Advisory Committee enjoys wide ranging housing sector representation that results in valuable input from its members. A copy of the committee representation is attached. The Committee lost two valued members this year. We are however pleased to report two new members with extensive experience in their respective sectors joined the Committee.

The work of the Housing Advisory Committee continues to be guided by the recommendations made in the Housing Analysis and Recommendation Strategies Report 2010, also known as the HARS 2010 Report. The HARS 2010 Report was a previous initiative undertaken by the Housing Advisory Committee. The Committee had conducted a line-by-line review of each HARS 2010 Recommendation and the report continues to be a relevant and useful resource to inform the work of the Committee throughout 2013.

**2013 Committee Work**

There are many changes, challenges and opportunities facing the social housing sector at this time. New housing legislation and requirements have kept members of the Housing Advisory Committee very busy throughout 2013 and it appears 2014 will be the same.

I am pleased to report the Committee has worked to review, monitor, provide input and make recommendations where required in the following three significant housing sector initiatives:

- The delivery of the Investment in Affordable Housing Program components;
- The development of local rules under the new Housing Services Act;
- The development of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan

## **1. Investment in Affordable Housing Program \$11.8M**

The Federal and Provincial governments partnered to fund the Investment in Affordable Housing Program for Ontario (IAH) until March 31, 2015. The Windsor Essex region was allocated \$11.8M under the program. The City as Service Manager has tremendous flexibility in allocating funds in combination of five identified program components including capital funding for residential rental housing, homeownership down payment assistance, rehabilitation and repair work, housing allowances and rent supplement funding. The program development and design flexibility enhanced the City's ability to continue to implement strategies to address local housing needs.

The Committee undertook a review of the program within the context of the HARS 2010 Recommendations. The Committee held discussions and worked on the information to identify which program components were most needed in the community and how best to proportion the program funding envelope to enable a recommendation to Housing Services. The Committee's recommendations were implemented by Housing Services.

The Committee continues to monitor the take-up results of the IAH program and provides feedback to Housing Services regarding delivery and take-up results.

## **2. Local Social Housing Rules – Housing Services Act**

Recent changes to provincial legislation have created an opportunity to review existing social housing program rules and attempt to address some of the challenges facing the affordable housing sector in Windsor Essex. These initiatives have kept the committee busy throughout 2012 and 2013.

Under the new Housing Services Act, Service Managers may adopt local rules in the areas of program design. The two most notable topics that the Committee will continue to have under discussion and requiring careful consideration are the development of a Review System (appeal) and Asset Limits. The Committee has and will continue to assess the ramifications of changes in these two areas and provide input to Housing Services regarding these two important topics.

## **3. Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy – Housing Services Act**

The new Housing Services Act requires Service Managers to develop and submit a 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for Council approval. This requirement is a significant undertaking. The Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services established the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Advisory Committee (LTAHSAC) to plan, develop, monitor and guide the initiative to completion. (A copy of the Role of LTAHSAC is attached as Appendix 2). In addition, Housing and Children Services has hired a consultant, SHS Consulting., to gather the necessary data, consult with stakeholders and draft the Windsor Essex

10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. There are 8 Housing Advisory Committee members on LTAHSAC providing their knowledge and expertise and a significant amount of their time and effort to ensure the initiative is a success. At the consultation day held on August 29, 2013 it was determined that the role of HAC would be to once again oversee and monitor the work and take part in the evaluation of the plan over the next ten years.

#### **4. Secondary Suites – Housing Services Act**

The new Housing Services Act requires municipalities to develop a Bylaw to govern secondary suites. The Housing Advisory Committee acknowledges careful consideration must be given regarding this requirement. This requirement remains on the Committee's agenda, continues to be a topic of discussion and the committee will receive updates from the Planning Department as to the progress in formulating the Bylaw that will become part of the City's Official Plan.

#### **5. 2014 Committee Work**

The Committee's work in the coming year will be to continue to review, monitor, provide input and make recommendations where required on the three main initiatives of this year's work, namely:

- The delivery of the Investment in Affordable Housing Program components. This program was originally scheduled to expire in March 2015 and the Federal government has announced a 5 year extension to the program. Discussions will be required throughout 2014 to ensure program design and delivery meets the needs of the Windsor Essex region;
- Final discussions and completion of the development of local rules under the new Housing Services Act is expected throughout 2014 and the Committee will be required to review and provide input into the process ;
- Year 1 of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan is 2014. The Committee will continue to work to provide input and monitor the implementation progress of the Plan.

#### **6. Closing**

In closing, the members of the Housing Advisory Committee are dedicated and knowledgeable individuals that volunteer their time generously and provide valuable input into relevant affordable housing issues in the community. We look forward to working throughout 2014 to improve the availability of and access to affordable housing in our community. I remain very proud to be the Chairperson of the Housing Advisory Committee.

*Marina Clemens*

## Appendix 1

### 2013 Membership List – Housing Advisory Committee

#### Voting Status

Sector Representation	Seat	Name
City Council	1	Councillor Ed Sleiman
County Council	1	Mayor Gary McNamara -Tecumseh
Housing Providers	2	Jim Steele, Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation Cheryl Porter, Glengarry Non-Profit Housing Corporation
Central Housing Registry	1	Marina Clemens, Chair
Labour Community		Anna Angelidis, Labour Sponsored Community Development Group
Housing Developer	1	Dave Foley, Barrier Free Construction and COAHP Proponent
Consumer and Tenant Representative	2	Lorena Shepley Frank Duralia
Community Groups	5	Heather McNamara, Multicultural Council Elayne Isaacs, Aboriginal Community Hassan Awed, Children Aid's Society John Elliot, Sandwich Teen Action Group Steve Govette, CMHA Manager Housing, Facilities Employment
Emergency Housing	1	Linda Wilson, Salvation Army
Windsor Essex Real Estate Board	1	Paul Renaud, Bob Pedler Real Estate
Lodging/Rest Home	1	Bill Bijl, Kanata Living Inc.

#### Resource to HAC Non-Voting Status

Council Services	1	Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator
Social Service Emergency Housing	1	Tricia Brisebois, Acting Manager Residential Shelter Services
CMHC		Judith Binder, Manager Southwest Region
Policy Planning	1	Chris Aspila, Planner II Land Information
County of Essex Planning Services	1	Bill King, Manager Planning Services
Executive Director of Housing and Children Services	1	Debbie Cercone
Housing Services Programs	1	Rob Oleynik

## **Appendix 2**

### **Windsor Essex Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) Advisory Committee**

#### **Role of the LTAHS Advisory Committee**

The role of the LTAHS Advisory Committee is to act as a community resource to make recommendations to the Executive Director of and Children's Services of the City of Windsor ("Executive Director") to:

- a) plan and develop a strategy and process to complete a 10 year community based Housing and Homelessness Plan ("the Plan") that addresses current and future local homelessness and housing needs in Windsor/Essex in a manner that results in the best outcome possible and complies with the spirit, intent and requirements of Provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and related legislation and;
  - b) formulate the rationale, objectives and expected outcome of the strategy and process and;
  - c) develop a work plan and timeline schedule for the Plan
  - d) steer the strategy, process and Plan to completion
- 1.2 Review, monitor, and interpret federal, provincial and municipal directives, regulations and policies as they relate to guiding the strategy, process and Plan to completion;
  - 1.3 Act as a medium for informational exchange with sector representatives and advance awareness in the Windsor/Essex region on housing program initiatives and community issues related to developing the Plan and related to LTAHS and;
  - 1.4 Monitor and evaluate progress throughout the process and recommend strategies to overcome challenges that may emerge as the process proceeds through to completion.

