

REPORT NO. 382 of the
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
of its meeting held March 2, 2016

Present: Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair
Councillor Rino Bortolin
Councillor John Elliott
Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Absent: Councillor Paul Borrelli

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

Moved by Councillor Bortolin, seconded by Councillor Elliott,
THAT the Housing Advisory Committee – 2015 Chairperson's Report to the Social Development, Health & Culture Standing Committee **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

SCM 24/2016

Clerk's Note: The 2015 Chairperson's Report of the Housing Advisory Committee is **attached** as background information.

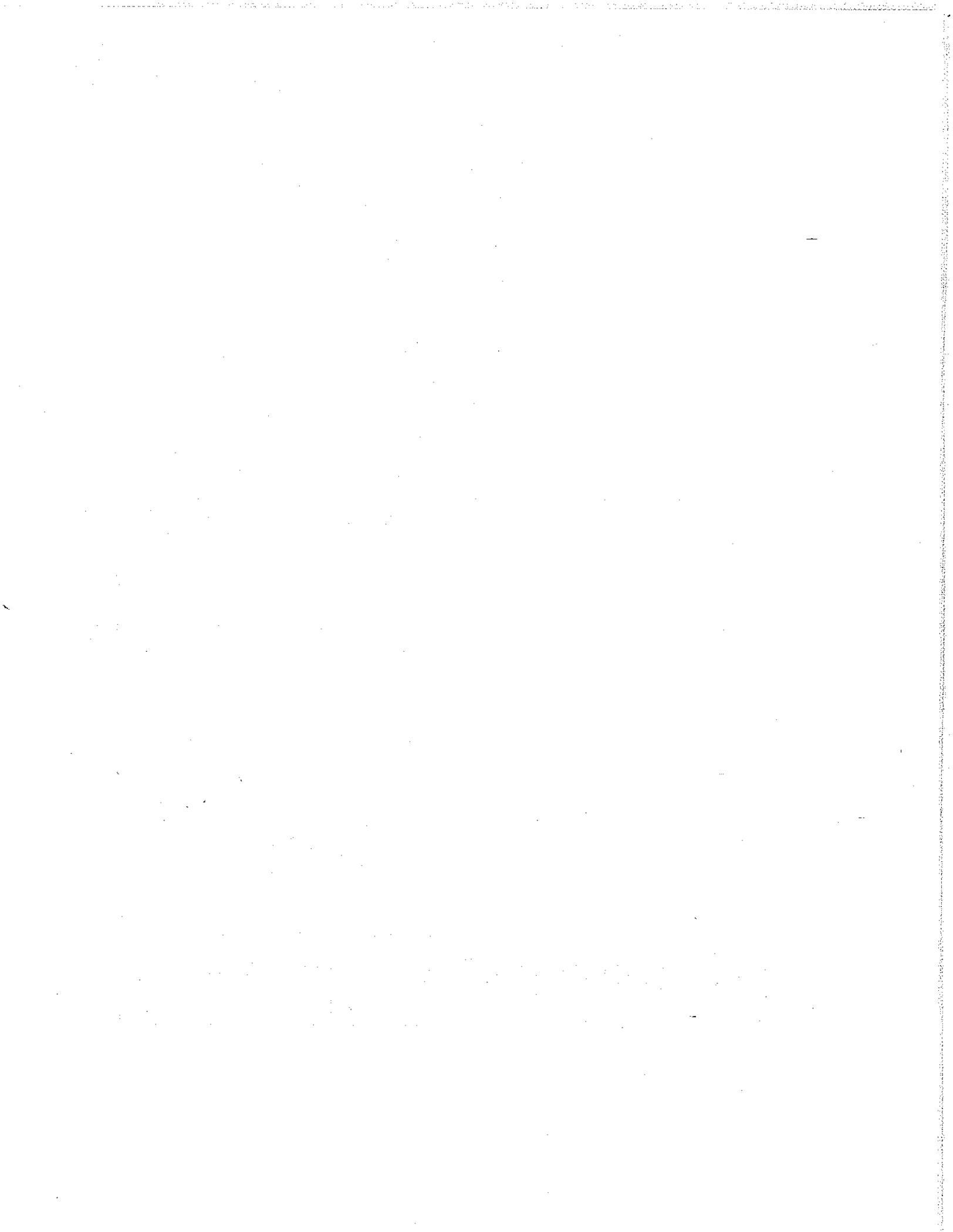


CHAIRPERSON



SUPERVISOR OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NOTIFICATION:		
Name	Email Address	Telephone/Fax
Marina Clemens	Chairperson, HAC	



Housing Advisory Committee
**2015 Chairperson's Report to the Social Development, Health and Culture
Standing Committee**

1. 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.

2. HAC Membership 2015 to 2018

The Housing Advisory Committee was very pleased to have welcomed nine (9) new members in 2015. New members represent 53% of the current Committee and we continue to enjoy a wide range of quality housing sector representation and valuable input from all members. HAC resource members provided orientation material to assist new members. A copy of the Committee representation is attached as Appendix 1.

3. 2015 Committee Work

The 2015 Committee work included a role and on-going discussions in the following areas:

- The Investment in Affordable Housing Program Extension components;
- Secondary Suites
- The Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan
- Expiration of Federal Operating Agreements for Windsor Essex Housing social housing developments;
- Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy – Renewal Consultation
- Current Topics raised by Members

3.1 Investment in Affordable Housing Program Extended to March 2020

In August, 2014 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing extended the Investment in Affordable Housing Program from 2014 to March 2020 and provided Windsor Essex with an allocation of approximately \$11.5 M over the 6 year extension period.

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.

In each program year, HAC provides input regarding program delivery and monitors the take-up of the various program components.

The program has assisted over 500 households from January 2011 to December 31, 2015. 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.

3.2 Secondary Suites – Housing Services Act

The 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 challenging and a topic of discussion. The Committee receives updates from the Planning Department as to the progress in formulating the bylaw.

HAC's primary interest is that such a bylaw can significantly assist families that wish to create an affordable secondary rental suite on their existing property to house and support aging parents and adult dependent children. A sub-committee was formed to explore the issue and assess how other communities have addressed this issue. The work by the sub-committee has helped to inform the strategies considered under the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, assisted with program design of the Ontario Renovates Program and informed discussions with the Planning Department.

3.3 Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

The Housing Services Act required Service Managers to develop and submit a 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (Plan). This requirement was a significant undertaking. The Plan was completed and approved by Council in May 2014. HAC provided feedback and input into the Windsor Essex First Annual Report to the Community (2014) and will continue to do so in the future.

The Plan adopts a Housing First approach that requires the collaboration of the housing sector and related stakeholders. In 2015, the Housing First initiative assisted some 50 individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness with co-ordinated support services and rent supplement funding.

HAC's role under the Plan is identified as Strategy 7.1 which states:

“Strategy 7.1 The Housing Advisory Committee, a Committee of City of Windsor Council, will be responsible for championing the implementation of the Plan and for evaluating and monitoring progress towards meeting the goals and strategies of the Plan.”

HAC has formed a sub-committee to develop measurements and criteria to evaluate and monitor the Plan.

3.4 Expiration of Federal Operating Agreements for Windsor Essex Housing

The expiry of Federal Operating Agreements for Federal social housing providers downloaded to the City will result in a corresponding reduction in federal block funding provided to the City. This matter was the subject of a report to City Council from City Administration in November 2013. Each year HAC reviews, discusses and monitors the impact of the expiring agreements.

3.5 Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Consultation

In 2010/2011 the Province launched the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. In 2015, the Province undertook an extensive consultation process to “..ensure that housing policies are relevant to current needs, reflect new research and best practices grounded in evidence and support the Province’s goal to end homelessness.” In June 2015 Housing Services held a community consultation to create the opportunity for agencies and organizations to provide information and ideas in response to a series of questions posed by the Province. HAC reviewed the community’s feedback and expects to discuss the response from the Province when received.

3.6 Current Topics raised by Members

Every HAC agenda includes a “Member Update” section. HAC members share information with the Committee regarding any news or issues in their respective sectors. This assists all HAC members to remain informed regarding housing issues in the community and also provides a forum for members to have their respective news and/or issues discussed. Recent examples include increasing market rents, decreasing vacancy rates and the Syrian Refugee initiative.

4. 2016 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 following initiatives:

1. The delivery of the Investment in Affordable Housing Program Extension components;
2. The development of a Secondary Suite Bylaw;
3. The Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan and evaluation criteria;
4. Expiration of Federal Operating Agreements for Windsor Essex Housing social housing developments;
5. The Provincial response to the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy - Renewal Consultation results;
6. Current Topics raised by Members.

5. Closing Remarks

It has been my privilege to be the Chair of HAC for the past number of years. We have such a diverse representation on the Committee which makes for lively, respectful dialogue and at the end of any discussion, I believe we continue to bring forward recommendations that present to the community the best solutions to provide affordable, accessible and suitable housing in both the city and the county. New members have brought forward other

significant housing issues within both the city and the county so 2016 will lead to more discussion and hopefully assist in achieving best outcomes in providing more affordable housing to those in need in the Windsor Essex region. I would be remiss if I did not applaud all our Resource people and especially our city staff from Housing Services. We could not accomplish our goals without their input, experience and expertise.

Marina Clemens

Chair, HAC

Appendix 1

2014 Membership List – Housing Advisory Committee

Voting Status * Indicates New Members

Sector Representation	Seat	Name
City Council	1	Councillor John Elliot
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	1	Anna Angelidis, Labour Sponsored Community Development Group
Consumer and Tenant Representative	2	Linda Coltman * Richard Ruston *
Community Groups	6	Fahimuddin Bai, Multicultural Council * Eric Hill, Aboriginal Community * Jessica Kipping, Windsor Essex County Health Unit * Sid Palumbo, Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women * Mike VanderList, Habitat for Humanity * Steve Govette, CMHA Manager Housing, Facilities Employment
Emergency Housing	1	Angela Yakonich, Homeless Coalition *
Windsor Essex Real Estate Board	1	Paul Renaud, Bob Pedler Real Estate
Lodging/Rest Home	1	Leigh Vachon, Victoria Manor Assisted Living *

Resource to HAC Non-Voting Status

Council Services	Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator
Housing Services 10 YR HHP	Kelly Goz
CMHC	Judith Binder, Manager Southwest Region
Policy Planning	Chris Aspila, Planner II Land Information
County of Essex Planning Services	Bill King, Manager Planning Services
Executive Director of Housing and Children Services	Debbie Cercone
Housing Services Programs	Rob Oleynik
Manager of Housing Support Services	Lucy Sobczyk
Windsor Essex County Real Estate Board	Krista Delgatto/Sandra Bistany

