

Community Services Committee Agenda 22 January 1998

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

That the Community Services Committee elect a Vice-Chair for the 1997-2000 term.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Community Services Committee confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of 16 Oct 1997 and 10 Dec 1997.

INQUIRIES

	<u>REGULAR ITEMS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEES</u> - Commissioner, Homes for the Aged report dated 2 Dec 97	01
	That Community Services Committee appoint a member to the position of Chair of each of the three Home Advisory Committees.	
2.	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM ACT 1997: REGIONAL POSITION ON REGULATIONS - Commissioner, Social Services Department dated 23 Dec 97	02
	That Community Services Committee recommend that Regional Council adopt recommendations 1 through 7 as its position on regulations to be made under the Social Assistance Reform Act (Bill 142) and authorise the Regional Clerk to forward this report to the	02

1. That Ontario Works Act (OWA) regulations provide for the continuation of all mandatory and supplementary benefits available under General Welfare Act (GWA) including the relevant funding approval procedures and cost-sharing formula;

Minister of Community and Social Services;

2. That if OWA personal asset levels are set lower than those under Ontario Disability Support Program Act (ODSPA), OWA applicants claiming disability as reason for assistance be temporarily exempt from the asset level criterion of eligibility pending consideration of their case under / transfer to ODSPA; 3. That any requirement that property related to personal use and/or employment be subject to the lien provisions of OWA, be conditional upon the expiration of a grace period of between 2 and 3 years during which the recipient must have received social assistance on a continuous basis;

4. That the specific lien grace period applicable to each recipient's individual situation be left to the discretion of the Welfare Administrator;

5. That the reimbursement provisions of OWA apply only to periodic incomes such as pension and employment insurance incomes that are payable with respect to the period before and during which assistance is received;

6. That OWA regulations ensure that third party payments are used only as a last resort when recipients risk the loss of shelter or utilities; and only when the third party payment does not jeopardise the ability of recipients to feed, clothe and shelter themselves;

7. That the rate of recovery of overpayments be maintained within the existing GWA limits of between 5% and 10% of income assistance, as determined by the Administrator; unless the recipient agrees to a greater amount being deducted.

COUNCILLORS' ITEM(S)

3. <u>SOCIAL HOUSING WORKING GROUP</u> - Councillor Alex Munter report dated 7 Jan 1998

> THAT Council strike a Social Housing Working Group, as outlined in the attached report, to prepare for the transition to regional government administration of social housing in Ottawa-Carleton, and;

> FURTHER THAT the Working Group will report to Council through the Community Services Committee, which will have responsibility for the policy decisions related to social housing.

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INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

- 1. <u>HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS</u> - Medical Officer of Health report dated 16 Dec 97
- 2. <u>SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DISCLOSURE POLICY</u> - Commissioner of Social Services report dated 9 Dec 97

NEXT MEETING

5 February 98