

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 22, 2007**

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTER NEEDS  
REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TERM**

**Recommendation**

The Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs recommends that Council grant a ninety day extension of the term of the Task Force to April 30, 2007, for the purpose of completing the final analysis report.

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to formally request that Council grant an extension of the term of the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs by ninety days, in order to complete the remaining work.

**Background – Analysis and Options**

The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs was approved by Council on June 26, 2006, and since its inception, has been actively involved with researching and analyzing the needs of the women of Vaughan. A preliminary report was approved by Council on September 25, 2006 which identified that the needs of the women of Vaughan are not adequately being met and outlined the progress of the Task Force to date.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council by serving our citizens and promoting community safety, health and wellness.

**Conclusion**

In order to appropriately fulfill the duties of the Task Force mandated by Council, it is recommended that Council grant a ninety day extension of the term of the Task Force, in accordance with the Committee of the Whole recommendation adopted without amendment by Council on June 26, 2006, in order to complete the final analysis report with appropriate recommendations in respect of a strategy the City of Vaughan may adopt to address the matter.

**Attachments**

1. Extract – Item 98, Report No. 37, of the Committee of the Whole, approved by Council on June 26, 2006
2. Extract – Item 39, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, approved by Council on September 25, 2006

**Report prepared by**

Gloria Hardyck  
Assistant City Clerk

Respectfully submitted by

Arlene Margolese, Chair  
Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs

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EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2006

Item 98, Report No. 37, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2006.

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MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTER NEEDS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of Mayor Di Biase, dated June 19, 2006:

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

The appointment of a task force to be known as the *Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs* to investigate whether the need for shelter on the part of the women of Vaughan is currently being met, and if not, to outline a strategy for developing such a facility, either independently or in conjunction with current shelter providers in York Region, such strategy to include but not be limited to issues such as capital and operational costs, sources of funding, size, location, related resources, etc.

*The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs* will be composed of the following individuals, all residents of Vaughan:

Raj Bharwah, Member, South Asian Seniors' Club  
Janet Cesena, Public Health Nurse, Regional Municipality of York  
Nicole Damiano, Member, Vaughan Youth Cabinet  
Arlene Margolese, Manager of Volunteers, Reena  
Shernett Martin, President, Vaughan African Canadian Association

*The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs* will convene no later than September 30, 2006, and report to Council no later than January 31, 2007 (with the option of requesting an additional ninety days to complete any outstanding work).

*The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs* will be supported by staff of the Clerks Department.

Economic Impact

The task force itself will have minimal economic impact, requiring only some staff support from the Clerks Department.

Purpose

To determine if there is a need for a women's shelter in the City of Vaughan, and if there is, to outline a strategy for developing such a shelter--said strategy to address basic questions relating to costs--both capital and operational, funding options, size, location, etc.

Background - Analysis and Options

Women's shelters are a regrettable, but all too necessary service in modern-day society. The fact is that some women do suffer mental, emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse in their families of origin, at the hands of their spouses, or from acquaintances--"boy friends", class mates, etc. Such abuse has in turn been known to lead to life-long patterns of at-risk behaviours, including alcohol and drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, etc. The type of counselling that is typically provided by such shelters assists victims to understand and deal with their situations.

Currently, there is only one shelter located in the City of Vaughan—that operated by The Vitanova Foundation, an addiction day-treatment centre whose premises include a domiciliary unit for homeless males whose condition is related to alcohol or drug addiction (i.e., addiction has led to homelessness, or homelessness has led to addiction). While Vitanova is considering expanding its shelter to serve females as well as males, the Foundation acknowledges that its mandate to treat and shelter substance users does not extend to those women without substance use issues.

*On Track*, the York/South Simcoe Youth Directory, funded by Human Resources and Skills Developments Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, the Canadian Red Cross/Region of York Branch, the Regional Municipality of York, and the York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board, lists two shelters in York Region which serve women: Sandgate Women's Shelter of Georgina/Jackson's Point, and Yellow Brick House, in Aurora.

Given the continuing growth in the population of York Region in general, and the City of Vaughan in particular, it is appropriate to determine if those female residents of Vaughan in need of shelter are adequately served by present resources, and if not, how any current inadequacy can best be addressed. The most appropriate way to do so is by the appointment of a task force charged with examining the issue of women's shelter services, and making all appropriate recommendations in respect of a strategy the City of Vaughan may adopt to address any identified inadequacy.

The **terms of reference** of the Mayor's Task Force are as follows:

1. *To determine from providers of women's shelter services:
  - (1) the current demand for such services from residents of the City of Vaughan;
  - (2) historic demand patterns and future demand projections; and
  - (3) present and planned capacity of current providers.*
2. *To determine, in consultation with all agencies that deal, inter alia, with abused women (e.g., York Region Police, York Region Abuse Program, local children's aid societies, The Vitanova Foundation, etc.), their assessment of the extent and nature of the phenomenon, and the degree of effectiveness with which it is currently being addressed.*
3. *To confirm any projected increase in the need for shelter services by women residents of Vaughan.*
4. *To determine whether any need for increased service would best be met by way of an independent, Vaughan-based initiative; or, in the alternative, by an initiative fostered by the City of Vaughan in support of current service providers which would result in enhanced service to women residents in the City of Vaughan.*
5. *In either event, and subject to confirmation of the need to enhance women's shelter capacity, to make recommendations for the enhancement of such capacity, to better serve the women of Vaughan.*
6. *And further, to outline a strategy for developing such a shelter—said strategy to address basic questions relating to costs—both capital and operational, funding options, size, location, etc.*

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

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EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2006

**Conclusion**

It is appropriate that efforts be taken to determine if there is a need for a women's shelter in the City of Vaughan, and if there is, to outline a strategy for developing such a shelter---said strategy to address basic questions relating to costs---both capital and operational, funding options, size, location, etc.

**Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

His Worship Mayor Michael Di Biase

Item 39, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 25, 2006.

**39** **MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTER NEEDS**  
**INTERIM REPORT**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs, dated September 18, 2006, be approved; and
- 2) That the deputation of Ms. Arlene Margolese, Chair, the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs, be received.

**Recommendation**

The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs recommends that the following report be received for information.

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the work to date of the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs.

**Background and Analysis**

The Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs was approved by Council on June 26, 2006, to investigate whether the need for shelter on the part of the women of Vaughan is currently being met, and if not, to outline a strategy for developing such a facility, either independently or in conjunction with current shelter providers in York Region. Such a strategy was to include but not be limited to issues such as capital and operational costs, sources of funding, size, location, related resources, etc.

The Task Force has contacted several emergency agencies in York Region, including:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre
- Vitanova Foundation
- Women's Sexual Assault Helpline and Outreach Services of York Region
- Women's Support Network of York Region
- York Region Abuse Program
- Sandgate Women's Shelter of Georgina
- Yellow Brick House
- Porter Place Family Shelter
- VICARS – Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service
- York Region Youth Shelter

As a result, the Task Force has identified the following:

- Consulted agencies verified that the incidence of domestic violence in Vaughan is comparable to that in any other municipality in Ontario.

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- The shelter needs of domestic violence victims are not being adequately addressed, due to lack of funding that results in insufficient shelter spaces, and consequent waiting lists.
- Typically, York Region is especially under-resourced in terms of this vital social service, compared to nearby Regions, with two shelters (one in Aurora, and another in Georgina), while Peel Region has four, and Durham Region has five.
- Yellow Brick House has indicated an interest in operating any shelter spaces that may be developed in Vaughan.
- The problems with respect to shelter capacity are compounded by the lack of parallel services (i.e. affordable housing, outreach counselors, interpretation services, etc.).
- The consensus is that any shelter should be safe and secure, centrally located in Vaughan, in a confidential location, and with access to public transit (or, in the alternative, some volunteer-based transport service).
- Awareness of the existence of the Task Force has been spread by local and regional media reports, and resulted in indications of widespread interest in this matter.

The study goes well beyond identifying the need for a women's shelter in Vaughan. It projects expenses of approximately \$512,000 per annum for a fifteen-bed shelter and outreach counseling services, if operated by an existing agency. A spreadsheet is attached illustrating projected costs on a *pro forma* basis.

The solution would appear to be to have an existing agency operate a shelter funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the proceeds of autonomous fundraising, at a confidential location in the City of Vaughan.

In order to proceed to the next step, it is recommended that Council receive this report.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council by serving our citizens and promoting community safety, health and wellness.

**Conclusion**

As directed by Council, the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs has investigated the matter and has identified that the needs of the women of Vaughan are not adequately being met. A final report will be forthcoming in the new year.

**Attachment**

1. Spreadsheet of projected costs

**Report prepared by**

Gloria Hardyckuk  
Assistant City Clerk

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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Project Hostel o/a The Yellow Brick House		Projected Expenses	
Program: Shelter			
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>			
5120 Supervisor		64,700.00	(Salaries-included 3% increase (union) / Benefits: approx. 17.7% of annual income, health/dental, life insur., 5% RRSP)
5120 Counselors		280,000.00	(shelter: \$ 46,300 x 1.02% union increase x 4.5 FTE / Children's Prog. Counselor 4 hours / day)
5130 Relief		49,000.00	(estimating relief staff will be needed 20% of the time, it was 19% for 03/04, 17% for 04/05 and 30% for 05/06)
			(Relief: estimating benefit at 10%, it was 13% in 03/04, 10% in 04/05, 8% in 05/06)
subtotal		393,700.00	
<b>Services and Utilities</b>			
5250 Insurance		4,100.00	(estimate prorated to property space)
5370 Hydro		6,600.00	(estimate prorated to 1800 sq. ft. Current shelter costs \$ 11068.97 for approximately 3000 sq. ft.)
5380 Water/Sewer		2,200.00	(estimate prorated to 1800 sq. ft. Current shelter costs \$ 3707.93 for approximately 3000 sq. ft.)
5390 Heat/Gas		2,700.00	(estimate prorated to 1800 sq. ft. Current shelter costs \$ 4504 for approximately 3000 sq. ft.)
5400 Cable		300.00	
5300 Property Taxes		3,000.00	(based on 2006 actual)
5260 Equipment Leases		900.00	(telephone equipment and fresh water machine)
5255 Security & Fire Inspection		2,200.00	
5325 Office Expenses		1,000.00	(general office supplies, toner and printer cartridges)
5330 Telephone		1,000.00	
Misc.		800.00	(mileage and staff development)
subtotal		24,800.00	
<b>Shelter and Maintenance</b>			
5410 Repairs & Maintenance		6,800.00	(waste management, plumbing services, cleaning and maintenance supplies)
5540 Food & Supplies		7,400.00	(prorated estimate - currently spending \$ 300 per week on grocery)
5550 Emergency Transportation		3,500.00	(estimate prorated)
5510 Direct Program Expenses		3,600.00	(canadian linens, cleaning supplies and monthly internet fee)
Misc.		100.00	(client phone)
subtotal		21,400.00	
Total		439,900.00	
<b>Overhead Allocation</b>			
Counselling / Transition		44,400.00	(estimate based on 10% of 05/06 salaries and benefits costs)
administration		27,700.00	(estimate 10% of 05/06 total administration expenditures)
Grand Total		512,000.00	
Remarks: These projected expenses are prepared for a 15 bed shelter.			