

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – JANUARY 29, 2008

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that the following update on the status of the Women's Shelter in the City of Vaughan be received for information purposes.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts associated with the receipt of this report.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the status of the proposed Women's Shelter in the City of Vaughan and recent activities undertaken by the City in support of the shelter.

Background – Analysis and Options

On February 26, 2007 Council approved the recommendations of the final report of the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Shelter Needs. The study undertaken by the Task Force determined that the needs of domestic violence victims in York Region were not being met by the facilities that were currently available and that this situation would be best addressed by establishing a Women's Shelter in the City of Vaughan.

On December 10, 2007 Council adopted the following recommendations:

That staff be directed to ensure that they assist in expediting the opening of the Women's Shelter in Vaughan in support of direction from Council of February 26, 2007; and

That staff provide a status update to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of January 29, 2008, regarding this matter.

This report has been prepared in response to that direction.

Since February 2007, the development of the shelter has been led by private citizens who have been working to establish a facility in the city. Substantial progress has been made. Starting in the late summer of 2007 meetings were held with the Commissioner of Planning and the proponent and their consultant to resolve issues related to the conversion of an existing building to the shelter use. In addition, the City Manager met with the consultant in December of 2007.

Also in December of 2007, staff from the Building Standards Department received a report from the proponent's Building Code consultant, detailing code deficiencies in the building being proposed for the shelter. The report identified the measures necessary to bring the building into compliance with the current code. Staff has reviewed the report and is satisfied that the report is sufficient.

On January 10, 2008 the proponent submitted drawings and made application for a permit to undertake the corrective measures identified in the code consultant's report. Staff has worked diligently with the proponent and, as a result, the permit for the required work was issued on January 14, 2008. The proponent will contact staff for the required inspections following completion of the work. The City Manager has also offered to assist, if requested, should any meetings be necessary with the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services. As such, the proponent has expressed gratitude for the staff assistance that has been received in furthering the project.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the objective to "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness."

Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

The proponent has made excellent progress and is well on the way to achieving final building completion and occupancy of the Women's Shelter. City staff will continue to assist whenever possible and look forward to working with the proponent as the project moves to finalization.

It is recommended that this report be received for information purposes.

Attachments

Not Applicable

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Respectfully submitted,

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