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NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, October 28, 2004, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The proposed nominees for the three upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation, i.e., Bas Balkissoon (Councillor, City of Toronto), Rick Craven (Councillor, Region of Halton) and Roger Maloney (Chief Administrative Officer, Region of Peel), be endorsed.
2. This report be sent to the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation for their consideration.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee and Council nominees for the upcoming vacancies of the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Services Corporation.

3. BACKGROUND

The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) was created in January 2002 and officially began its mandate on May 1, 2002. SHSC is an independent organization and was created out of the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000* (SHRA) to provide social housing-related services for municipal Service Managers and social housing providers across Ontario.

Under legislation, the Corporation has responsibility for four services:

1. Research and Best Practices (e.g. research related to best practices for management of assets, leadership related to OMBI benchmarking initiatives, etc.).
2. Bulk Purchasing (including a natural gas purchasing program for local housing corporations).
3. Investing Social Housing Providers' Pooled Capital Reserve Funds.
4. Group Insurance for Social Housing.

The operating environment for SHSC changes dramatically in 2005. The Province committed \$1 million a year for SHSC's first three years of operation. As of January 1, 2005, this funding arrangement ends and the Corporation must be self-sufficient. The Board has adopted a mission statement that requires the Corporation to provide services based on a cost recovery basis in order to ensure that the Corporation does not become a financial burden for municipalities.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Current Board

SHSC is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors with eight Service Managers, five housing providers, and two provincial representatives (*see Attachment 1*). The founding board was appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in early 2002. Currently, the municipal Service Manager representatives on the Board comprise a mix of elected officials and senior housing staff.

4.2 Board Requirements Under SHRA

In the case of York Region, the SHRA requires that the SHSC Board of Directors must include: one person selected by the Councils jointly of Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions; and one person selected by the Council of the City of Toronto; and one person selected jointly by the Council of the City of Toronto and the Councils of Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions.

4.3 SHSC Process for Filling Municipal Service Manager Board Vacancies

In April 2004, SHSC issued a Call for Nominations from municipal Service Managers to serve on the Board of Directors for a two-year term starting January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2006. The request sought nominations from both staff persons and elected officials to fill three upcoming vacancies.

This call was circulated and discussions among the Chief Administrative Officers of the City of Toronto and Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions resulted in the following three names for consideration:

1. Bas Balkissoon, Councillor, City of Toronto.
2. Rick Craven, Councillor, Region of Halton.
3. Roger Maloney, Chief Administrative Officer, Region of Peel.

These three nominees require Council support before they can be sent to SHSC for their review. Assuming Council endorsement, the SHSC Nominating Committee will examine each nominee against board composition criteria. These criteria ensure the municipal Service Manager board members are representative of: the various Regions in Ontario; both Service Manager housing staff and elected officials; and a range of experience and skills (e.g., strong knowledge of the social housing system in Ontario).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications for this report.

7. CONCLUSION

The 2005-2006 Board of Directors will play a vital role in determining how SHSC supports municipal Service Managers, including York Region, and social housing providers. In support of this, it is recommended that Council endorse the three nominees proposed in this report.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the Agenda for the November 10, 2004 Committee meeting.)