



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 10-270

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth Group
RESOURCE STAFF: Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure
DATE OF MEETING: 2010-09-07
SUBJECT: Partnership with Salvation Army – Expansion of Service for Homeless Persons

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the past year, Recreation and Leisure Services staff has been working with the Social Issues Networking Group (SING) to address some of the challenges as it relates to basic services to the homeless population. One of the first requests from SING was for the City to reopen washrooms located in parks, more specifically, Victoria Park and McBurney Park.

In the fall of 2009, SING approached Recreation and Leisure Services to establish a partnership which would provide homeless persons with access to showers at various municipal facilities at no cost. Staff identified some concerns with the vulnerable clientele using City facilities as well as the lack of constant monitoring. Staff explored various options for this critical service in partnership with the City's Housing Program Department and SING.

City staff recognizes that this service is needed in the community and that the best option to provide this service in near future is to partner with the Salvation Army, which is undertaking some major renovations. The Salvation Army is in the process of re-locating and re-developing "The Gathering Place" from its Alfred Street facility to its new location on Patrick Street which will provide many services for homeless persons. Part of this plan is to provide access to a shower facility, change room, laundry facility and lockers. The cost to construct these amenities is about \$20,000. The Salvation Army has secured \$10,000 and still needs \$10,000 to complete this project.

The City currently has \$50,000 left in a 2008 capital account to upgrade washrooms in parks. These funds have not yet been identified for specific projects. Staff is recommending that \$10,000 be allocated through a partnership with the Salvation Army to ensure the construction and availability of shower and associated amenities to homeless persons.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve a partnership contribution of \$10,000 to the Salvation Army for the construction and provision of a shower facility, change room and laundry amenities to homeless persons at its facility located on Patrick Street; and

THAT Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a Partnership Agreement, to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, with the Salvation Army; and

THAT the \$10,000 contribution be funded from the Recreation and Leisure Services Park/Sport Fields Washroom Rehabilitation capital account.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Terry Willing, <i>Community Services</i>	√
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, President and CEO, <i>Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

City staff initiated discussions with Social Issues Networking Group (SING) regarding the provision of shower service for homeless persons in the late fall of 2009. Initially, SING was requesting that the City provide access to showers located at Artillery Park, Confederation Basin Marina and the INVISTA Centre at no cost. Staff reviewed all three (3) locations and identified the following challenges:

1. Impact on operations;
2. Client vulnerability;
3. Membership response;
4. Hours and seasonal access; and
5. Location (limited access).

The consensus was that these locations were not appropriate for this service. Staff then examined the possibility of establishing shower facilities at a number of washroom facilities located in parks, including City Park, Victoria Park and McBurney Park. All three (3) locations would have required retrofits which would have ranged between \$10,000 and \$25,000 each. All locations would also have been seasonal, unsupervised and have some impacts on other users of splash pads and wading pools.

Recreation and Leisure staff connected with the City's Housing Program staff to discuss other options. It was identified that existing shelters in the community that support homeless persons all had shower/bathing facilities that were generally accessible by clients only. Having taken existing shelters into consideration, staff concluded that the best option was to partner with the Salvation Army in the re-location and construction of "The Gathering Place" on Patrick Street which will act as a one stop service for homeless persons. The concept is for "The Gathering Place" to include a kitchen for meals, a program room, counseling areas, washrooms, lockers, laundry area, change room and a shower facility. The change room and shower facility would be part of a second phase as the Salvation Army currently only has \$10,000 of the required \$20,000 to complete this project. Additional fundraising efforts would be required to collect all necessary funds and the time frame to be able to fundraise an additional \$10,000 is unknown. In order for the Salvation Army to complete this project and provide this critical service in the community, City staff are recommending a partnership with the Salvation Army.

Should this partnership be approved, the shower and change room facility should be available in September/October. The timing for this partnership is important as the Salvation Army currently has a contractor on site doing construction work and would enable the Salvation Army to complete this project within the estimated budget. This service would initially be available four (4) days a week with the potential to be expanded to seven (7) days per week depending on client demand and need. The Salvation Army will monitor use of the facility and report information back through its quarterly reports to the City.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

All facilities will be fully accessible.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is \$50,000 remaining in a 2008 capital account for washroom repairs and upgrades in parks. These funds were recently transferred from Public Works to Recreation and Leisure Services and have not yet been assigned to specific projects. It is recommended that the \$10,000 contribution be charged to this account.

CONTACTS:

Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services (613) 546-4291 ext. 1231

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Lynda Breen, Supervisor, Recreation Programs
Bill Reason, Assistant Supervisor, Programs and Events
Lee Campbell, Housing Programs Administrator
Jonathan Nicholls, Financial Analyst

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A