



**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Report No.: 12-234**

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**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services Group

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing Department

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 19, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Poverty Reduction Plan and Housing Sub Working Group Assignment

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In 2012, Council directed staff to work on the implementation of the Community Poverty Reduction Plan which was initiated by a steering committee composed of the United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (United Way), City of Kingston and the former Round Table on Poverty Reduction.

The Community Poverty Reduction Plan implementation framework includes a Housing Working Group. It was suggested by City staff and the United Way that the objectives of the Housing Working Group were very similar to the mandate of the City's Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee. It was recommended that the City's Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee could be utilized as the structure to achieve the objectives outlined in the Poverty Reduction Plan Housing Working Group. The mandate of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee is established by a By-Law of Council and therefore requires an amendment to the mandate to ensure that the Committee is involved in the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Housing Working Group. The Housing and Homelessness Committee passed a motion at its meeting to amend its mandate.

It is important to note that the Poverty Reduction Housing Working Group has some objectives that will need to be implemented by a sub working group as it will require work with grass root agencies and members of the public at large. It is recommended that two members of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee be assigned to the sub working group.

At its April meeting, the Housing and Homelessness Committee passed a motion to lead the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Plan housing objectives. This report proposes a process to enable the Committee's involvement. Three (3) readings of the By-Law amendment

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are recommended as the Poverty Reduction Plan working groups started their orientation on June 12, 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** a by-law be presented to amend By-Law 2010-205, the Committee By-Law to amend the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee mandate, schedule B-15, to include the following:

- Provide information and input on housing matters as related to poverty reduction through the appointment of one member of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty Reduction Group, for a term of two years and two members of Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group for a term of two years.

**THAT** the by-law receive all three readings.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:**

<p>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER                  Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services</p>
<p>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER                  Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</p>

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

Cynthia Beach, Sustainability and Growth	N/R
Denis Leger, Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services	N/R
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	N/R

*(N/R indicates consultation not required)*

**OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

The following outlines the objectives set out for the Community Poverty Reduction Housing Working Group:

- Increase the number of units that are mixed-income and integrated for all;
- Reduce wait times for those on the list for social housing by increasing the number of portable rent supports;
- Increase vacancy rates by increasing the number of units available within 5 years.
- Increase engagement and empowerment in neighbourhoods;
- Increase coordination and accessibility of client-focused programs and services for residents who require support;
- Increase awareness and knowledge for both tenants and landlords of human rights in housing to remove barriers caused by discrimination; and
- Increase community acceptance of mixed-housing neighbourhoods.

It was identified that the first three (3) objectives are already being addressed by the City of Kingston's Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and that other objectives require involvement of grass root organizations and members of the public at large. It was agreed that a sub working group, with representatives from the public, be established to work on those objectives.

**1. Goals and Objectives**

It is important to clarify roles and responsibilities as there are two (2) entities that will be involved in the implementation of the housing objectives as identified in the Community Poverty Reduction Plan. Therefore, staff are proposing the following focus for each entity:

**A. Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee:**

1. Increase the number of units that are mixed-income and integrated for all;
2. Reduce wait times for those on the list for social housing by increasing the number of portable rent supports; and
3. Increase vacancy rates by increasing the number of units available within 5 years.

**B. Community Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group:**

- Increase engagement and empowerment in neighbourhoods;
- Increase coordination and accessibility of client-focused programs and services for residents who require support;
- Increase awareness and knowledge for both tenants and landlords of human rights in housing to remove barriers caused by discrimination; and
- Increase community acceptance of mixed-housing neighbourhoods.

**2. Structure and Membership****A. Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee:**

It is also important to clarify the structure and membership of both entities. The Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee reports to the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies (ARCP) Committee. Its mandate is established by Council and an amendment to its

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mandate is required to clarify the Committee's role in the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Housing Plan objectives. Committee membership is set by By-Law as well. The Committee's primary role is to advise the City of policies and programs to advance the Municipal Housing Strategy and to improve both housing and homelessness services provided through or facilitated by the City. The Committee has the ability to pass motions which are then considered by the ARCP Committee. The Committee is composed of representatives from various agencies and members of the public at large. City staff attend all meetings of the Committee but are not members of the Committee.

**B. Community Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group:**

The membership for this sub working group is proposed to be as follows:

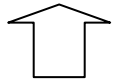
- 2 members of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee;
- 3 members (youth and/or adults) living in poverty/living in transitional or supported housing;
- 1 member with lived experience;
- Community agency representatives working on the issue of homelessness & housing;
- City of Kingston Housing Department staff; and
- United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.

Members of the public and representatives of agencies have already submitted their interest in becoming members of the sub working group. The Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee has to assign two (2) of its members to the sub working group. Information will be shared and coordinated between the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group.

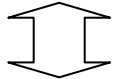
**3. Working Relationship Between Groups**

Both the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group will play a distinct but complimentary role in the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Plan objectives. In order to ensure proper communication and coordination, two (2) members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee will be assign to sit on the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group. Both entities will have one (1) member sitting on the overall Poverty Reduction Group to ensure coordination of various community initiatives. The graph on the next page illustrates the working relationship for the two (2) entities assigned to tackle the housing challenges. Please note that although the Housing and Homelessness Committee will have a member representation on the Poverty Reduction Group, its formal reporting relationship remains with ARCP Committee and then City Council.

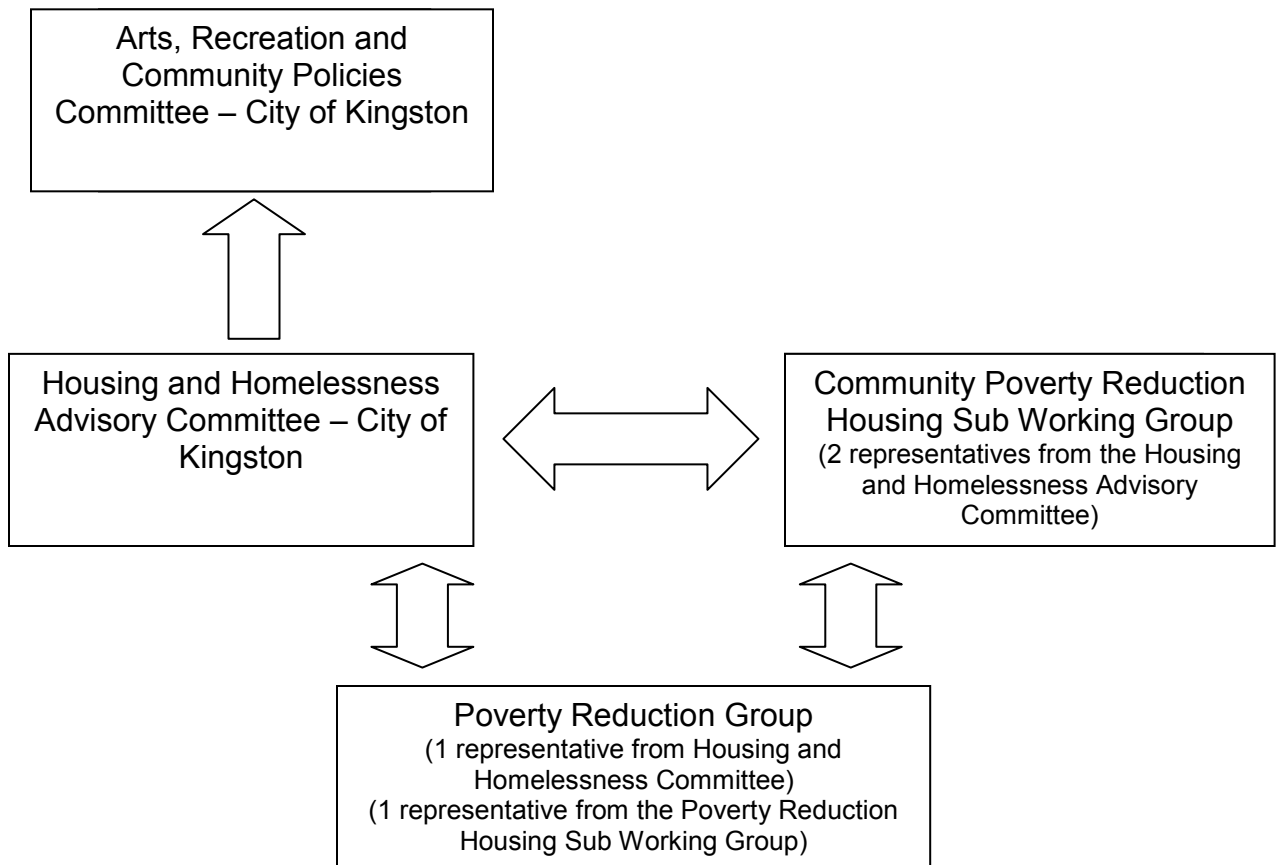
Note: The following symbols are meant to clarify the relationship between groups and committees



- Direct reporting relationship



- Information sharing and coordination



**EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:**

By-Law No. 2010-205 “A By-Law to Define the Mandate and Meeting Procedures for Committees Established by the Corporation of the City of Kingston”

**NOTICE PROVISIONS:**

N/A

**ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

N/A

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**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

N/A

**CONTACTS:**

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services Group

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**OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:**

Kevin Arjoon, Deputy Clerk

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED:**

Exhibit „A“ Proposed Amendment to By-Law 2010-205, Schedule B-15

EXHIBIT „A“

BY-LAW NO. 2010-205

**A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NO. 2010-205 “A BY-LAW TO DEFINE THE MANDATE AND MEETING PROCEDURES FOR COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON” (To Amend the Mandate of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to provide information and input on housing matters as related to poverty reduction through the appointment of one member of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty Reduction Group, for a term of two years and two members of Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group for a term of two years).**

**PASSED:** June 19, 2012

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Kingston hereby enacts as follows:

1. By-Law No. 2010-205 of The Corporation of the City of Kingston entitled, “A By-Law To Define The Mandate And Meeting Procedures For Committees Established By The Corporation Of The City Of Kingston”, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:
  - 1.1. Schedule “B-15”, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the new Schedule “B-15” attached hereto and marked as Schedule „A”.
2. This By-Law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

**GIVEN ALL THREE READINGS AND PASSED** June 19, 2011

**CITY CLERK**

**MAYOR**



**SCHEDULE B-15 - ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**Committee Name:** Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee

**Reporting To:** Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee

**Composition (as appointed by Council) December 1, 2011 – November 30th, 2012:**

- 2 members of City of Kingston Council
- 1 representative from the County of Frontenac
- 1 representative from Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO)
- 1 representative from Kingston Home Builders Association (KHBA)
- 1 representative from the Kingston Not for Profit Housing Association
- 1 representative from homelessness service providers (involved with Community Advisory Board on Homelessness)
- 1 representative from the Community Leadership Committee (as established by United Way KFLA)
- 4 members of the public at large

**Composition (as appointed by council) December 1, 2012:**

- 2 members of City of Kingston Council
- 1 representative from the County of Frontenac
- 1 representative from Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO)
- 1 representative from Kingston Home Builders Association (KHBA)
- 1 representative from the Kingston Not for Profit Housing Association
- 1 representative from homelessness service providers (involved with Community Advisory Board on Homelessness)
- 1 representative from the Community Leadership Committee (as established by United Way KFLA)
- 1 tenant of social/affordable housing services
- 2 members of the public at large

**Term of Appointment:**

All representatives to be appointed for two year terms.

**Mandate/Terms of Reference:**

- Members of the Committee will work to ensure that there is a comprehensive understanding of housing, affordable housing and homelessness issues, initiatives and developments, with a mandate to:
- Provide advice to Council on housing, publicly assisted affordable housing and homelessness policies;
- Provide advice regarding the implementation of the Municipal Housing Strategy, Homelessness Plan and other municipal housing strategies, policies and directives;
- Provide information and input on housing matters as related to poverty reduction through the appointment of one member of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty

Reduction Group, for a term of two years and two members of Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to the Poverty Reduction Housing Sub Working Group for a term of two years.

- Maintain close linkages with other City Committees and working groups to ensure co-ordination of housing, affordable housing and homelessness initiatives.
- Provide housing and homelessness advice.
- Provide advice on overall financial investment tools for housing and homelessness but not on individual funding allocation.

(By-law No. 2010-205; 2012-171)