

February 25, 2013

To: His Worship the Mayor
and Members of City Council

Re: Mayor's Housing Summit

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

1. That City Council approve the Mayor's Housing Summit set to occur the week of May 13th, 2013.
2. That Administration be directed to create a Housing Summit Planning Group to plan all aspects of the Mayor's Housing Summit, including timing, keynote speakers, advertising and communications strategy, venue, registration fees, etc.
3. That Administration be directed to return to Council for approval of the required resources associated with the Mayor's Housing Summit by March 31, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 13, 2013

The Committee adopted a resolution to concur in the recommendation contained in the report.

Mayor Michael Fougere, Councillors: Sharron Bryce, Bryon Burnett, John Findura, Jerry Flegel, Shawn Fraser, Bob Hawkins, Mike O'Donnell and Barbara Young were present during consideration of this report by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, at the **PRIVATE** session of its meeting held on February 13, 2013, considered the following report from the Administration:

RECOMMENDATION

1. That City Council approve the Mayor's Housing Summit set to occur the week of May 13th, 2013.
2. That Administration be directed to create a Housing Summit Planning Group to plan all aspects of the Mayor's Housing Summit, including timing, keynote speakers, advertising and communications strategy, venue, registration fees, etc.
3. That Administration be directed to return to Council for approval of the required resources associated with the Mayor's Housing Summit by March 31, 2013.

CONCLUSION

The issue of housing is not only local, but national in scope, with issues covering the full continuum from homelessness to affordable housing to market-driven housing. As Saskatchewan's economy continues to thrive and our population continues to grow, housing is becoming a growing issue that needs to be immediately addressed.

Housing pressures are present in every growing urban centre in the country. Although housing responsibilities are mandated differently throughout the various provinces and municipalities, the underlying issues remain consistent and must be addressed by all stakeholders involved. Several funding initiatives and programs have been adopted in recent years but the issues remain.

The City of Regina is cognizant of the fact that the primary responsibility for housing resides within the federal and provincial governments, however there is much the City can do by supporting, partnering and complementing housing initiatives. It is with this in mind that in February of 2012, the City of Regina undertook a Comprehensive Housing Strategy that forms the basis and platform for the Mayor's Housing Summit.

BACKGROUND

Mayor's Housing Summit:

Housing is a priority of the City of Regina and needs to be addressed by various stakeholders involved in the housing spectrum. The City's Comprehensive Housing Strategy will better enable the City to align policy and programs with those of the Government of Saskatchewan. Housing issues are wide-ranging and involve coordination between municipalities, provincial government departments, the federal government and private and non-profit sector stakeholders.

The City of Regina has, and will continue, to contribute and complement provincial government programs and policies. However, the issue requires further collaboration and innovative solutions between all stakeholders involved. To further the dialogue, the Mayor's Housing Summit is set to occur the week of May 13th of this year. The purpose of the Summit will be to bring together subject experts and stakeholders in all aspects of housing, as well as senior governments, to further assess housing issues, needs and potential solutions.

Comprehensive Housing Strategy (CHS):

The Comprehensive Housing Strategy has been in development since February 2012. SHS Consulting Ltd, a housing consulting group from Toronto, was contracted to lead the development of the strategy. A cross-section of City staff and housing sector stakeholders have been involved in the process.

The Comprehensive Housing Strategy, along with Administration's recommendations for implementation, will come before Council at a later date.

DISCUSSION

Mayor's Housing Summit:

The Mayor's Housing Summit has been mentioned several times in the media, demonstrating the depth of the issues and the need for immediate action. There is a growing sense of urgency that innovative solutions and new initiatives need to be taken to alleviate the housing pressures felt by Regina and all growing urban centres in the province and country.

The purpose of the Summit is to gather representatives from senior governments, as well as the private and non-profit sectors, to provide input, make recommendations and resolve housing issues with innovative initiatives and practices.

The Summit will feature expert speakers offering knowledge, experience, innovative ideas and fact-based analysis on different aspects of housing. It is important that senior governments collaborate with the private and non-profit sectors, those who are on the front lines of the issues, to make progress and alleviate growing housing problems.

It is also important that the Summit provides the forum necessary to bring all parties together in a collaborative solutions-based approach, with no blame and shame game occurring between the municipal, provincial or federal government. As stated, the primary responsibility for housing lies within federal and provincial government jurisdiction and mandate, however, municipalities, private and non-profit sectors and industry based groups also have a role and responsibility to ensure citizens have access to safe and affordable housing options.

The Mayor's Housing Summit is an event set to occur during the week of May 13th and will be seen as the beginning of a collaborative process that will allow stakeholders to take action to alleviate the pressures faced by senior government and the private sector in regards to housing.

Comprehensive Housing Strategy (CHS):

As indicated previously, the CHS has been under development for the past year. The Strategy will enable the City to:

- Define and communicate the City's role in housing;
- Better align policies, programs and assets with current and future housing needs, including through and with the new Official Community Plan (OCP) and with the housing policies and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan; and
- Define the best areas and methods to stimulate and facilitate the housing market within the City's role.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Administration will return to Council by March 31, 2013 with a strategy for required resources, as well as an update on planning progress for the Mayor's Housing Summit.

Environmental Implications

None with respect to this report.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

There is a growing sense of urgency that immediate action needs to be taken to alleviate the housing pressures felt by Regina and all growing urban centres in the province and country. The City of Regina is cognizant of the fact that the primary responsibility for housing lies with the federal and provincial governments, however there is much the City can do by supporting, partnering and complementing housing initiatives.

Other Implications

None with respect to this report.

Accessibility Implications

None with respect to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

A communications strategy will be an important component of the Summit and will be used to advertise, promote and bring awareness to housing issues locally, provincially and nationally. In addition, Mayor Fougere, as a member of the BCMC Working Group on Housing, will raise the profile of the issue with other Big City Mayors' and potentially leverage their support for the Mayor's Summit.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

City Council approval required for resources allocated towards Mayor's Housing Summit.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Joni Swidnicki, Secretary