

November 2, 2006

NM2006-45

RE: THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS  
(Alderman King and Alderman Farrell)

WHEREAS In the face of an impending crisis related to the volume of individuals who will require emergency shelter this winter, a collective of stakeholders from the Calgary homeless service sector has been convened to develop a framework for an Emergency Winter Response Plan 2006/2007;

AND WHEREAS collective representatives of a broad group of community agencies have made commitments to assume responsibility for staffing, managing and operating emergency winter programs once resources are made available for implementation. The collective involves participation by: Salvation Army, Calgary Drop In and Rehab Centre Society, The Mustard Seed, Inn From the Cold, Wood's Homes, Calgary John Howard Society, McMan, Alpha House, Red Cross, Calgary Homeless Foundation, CUPS, Kerby Centre and United Way of Calgary and Area;

AND WHEREAS on October 17, 2006, City Council committed to spend up to \$500,000 on emergency winter shelter subject to reimbursement by the Province;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated by the Emergency Winter Response Collective (EWRC) that approximately 350 single adult men and women require shelter and daytime drop in space this winter;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated by EWRC that in excess of 120 intoxicated clients require a shelter site easily accessible by Calgary Police Service and EMS;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated by EWRC that shelter and daytime drop-in spaces are required for 200 youth (13 – 17) without Child Welfare status;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated by EWRC that 40 individuals with physical illness and/or disabilities needing a level of care beyond the capacity of shelter programs require specialized shelter with appropriate supports;

AND WHEREAS it is prudent to think of this as a year round issue if Calgarians want to avoid people sleeping in parks, lanes, plus 15s and other public spaces;

AND WHEREAS affordable housing, income supports, healthcare, addictions and mental health are not primarily (or at all) the responsibility of a municipality in Alberta;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Administration be directed to report to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services by January 22, 2007, on the City's role in addressing the above-described homeless issue during winter 2006 and throughout 2007;

2. And further be it resolved that the report include budget implication of the proposed role and source of funds.