

For Information Only

Preventative Plumbing Subsidy Program

Presented To: Policy Committee

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Information

Recommendation

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Introduction

On February 24th, 2010 Council passed Resolution #2010-87 as follows:

“WHEREAS the storm of July 26, 2009 was extreme in its intensity and in the amount of water which fell over a short period of time and created devastating damage for several Greater Sudbury residents;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the resolution endorsing the creation of the Greater Sudbury Climate Change consortium by the NDCA passed by Council on November 12th, 2009, although the July 26, 2009 severe storm event in Greater Sudbury affected only a small part of the community, it is likely that these types of severe storm events will become even more frequent and larger in scale in the future;

AND WHEREAS we are approaching the storm season;

AND WHEREAS the Storm Working Group’s Final Report includes a suggestion for a preventative plumbing subsidy program having an approximate value of \$350,000;

AND WHEREAS a preventative plumbing subsidy program could reduce the likelihood of insurers insisting on stricter coverage terms for owners of repeatedly flooded premises and measures aimed at reducing the amount of water directed into the city’s sewer system will also assist the city in handling water volume during storms and further compliments other existing CGS initiatives to promote source control programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council direct staff to more fully develop a preventative plumbing subsidy program which, if approved and funded, would be effective retroactive to July 25th, 2009 for those who experienced flooding due to the July 26th, 2009 storm and subsequently to residents residing in flood regions, as identified in the draft policy; and to

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identify a potential funding source for the program, and present the draft policy to Council at its April 21st, 2010 Policy Committee meeting”.

Staff have nearly completed the development of this program and are committed to presenting a draft program to the May 19, 2010 Policy Committee.

Background

Staff have obtained copies of and are reviewing similar programs that have been implemented in St. Catharines, Peterborough, Toronto, Ottawa and Edmonton.

It is staff's aim to select the best components from the other similar programs to meet the needs of our City.

Several meetings have already been held with Councilor Joscelyne Landry-Altmann, and representatives from Building Services, Infrastructure Services, Finance, Legal and Corporate Communications to develop a program including implementation plan.

The following key components will be included in the proposed program that will be presented to Council for approval:

- 1) Identification of specific areas to be reviewed for potential basement flooding including geographical location including proximity to flood plains, surface runoff, lot grading issues, overland flow, eaves trough systems, weeping tile systems, and City infrastructure , including storm water and sanitary systems.
- 2) Identification of cost of various potential proposed solution options/components of the program. Specific components potentially available to the public would include disconnection programs for weeping tile and sump pump systems, lot grading improvements, etc.
- 3) Proposed initial program including eligible components, funding criteria, evaluation and payment mechanisms.
- 4) Proposed administrative structure to administer the program including annual review and updates to Council.
- 5) Recommended funding source for this program both on the initial implementation and long term.
- 6) Proposed Implementation and Communication Plan to inform and educate the community. It is envisaged that media releases and public information sessions will be carried out.

Proposed Schedule

A draft program is nearing completion and will be reviewed by staff and completed by the end of

this month.

It is scheduled that a draft program including potential funding sources, implementation and communications plan be presented to the May 19, 2010 Policy Committee for Council's information and approval.