



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Relief fund for future community emergencies

TO: Council

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date to Committee: August 7, 2024

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Motion for Council to Consider:

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or designate, in cooperation with the Chief Financial Officer, to report back to Committee of the Whole on October 7 with options and recommendations on establishing a Burlington Resiliency Fund to support the community during natural disasters or emergencies.

Reason:

On July 15, 2024, Burlington received approximately 65mm in rain over three hours, additional rain in the afternoon and more rain on July 16, 2024.

This significant amount of rainfall led to the flooding of 1288 homes in Burlington, some of which experienced significant damage, causing unexpected financial hardship for many.

Following the flooding, it became clear that Burlington lacked a centralized resource for both the intake of charitable donations and for the distribution of support.

Relief funds are often established to support the long-term recovery and resiliency of a community following a natural or human-made disaster as part of a proactive emergency preparedness community strategy.

The city has the ability to set criteria for eligible costs. The city can also receive donations and administer dispersals from a relief fund, including issuing charitable tax receipts.

The city can also partner with an independent third party, such as a local community foundation. This occurred after the 2014 flood, when the city partnered with the Burlington Foundation to assist homeowners impacted by that flood.

The minimum contribution to establish a fund with the Burlington Community Foundation will vary based on the type of fund established. This could be included as part of the 2025 budget and/or through the current Severe Weather Reserve Fund and/or raised through community donations.

Establishing a relief fund with the Burlington Community Foundation allows the foundation to hold, manage and steward the fund's assets and nurture and grow fund in perpetuity.

As staff review options and recommendations for a Burlington Resiliency Fund, the analysis should include but not be limited to:

- Who should administer the program
- Source of initial seed funding and source of ongoing contributions
- Criteria for eligibility
- Types of costs that would be covered, and amounts such as insurance deductibles or backflow valve
- Types of natural disasters covered, including impacts from flooding, windstorms, ice storms and other natural or weather-related events
- Eligibility by type of property and tenure, including businesses, residential properties (including rental) or all

Outcome Sought:

To provide council with options and recommendations to make an informed decision about whether to proceed with an ongoing Burlington Resiliency Fund to assist residents impacted by severe weather and other emergencies.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk:

City Manager: