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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2013
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	PUBLIC MONUMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Homelessness Memorial Project:

- i) That the proposed site location of Campbell Park **BE ACCEPTED** for the installation of the public monument; and,
- ii) That the proposed language for the plaque to read “Honouring and Remembering Lives Lost through Homelessness in London” **BE ACCEPTED**.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- World Homeless Day 10/10/10 (CPS, August 23, 2010)

BACKGROUND

The London Homeless Coalition along with Civic Administration and public and private groups have been working on the implementation of the Public Monument and Memorial to recognize and commemorate lives lost as a result of homelessness. The efforts of the London Homeless Coalition and others, has included the following objectives:

- To have a permanent monument in London where individuals can gather to commemorate lives lost as a result of homelessness in London;
- To design the monument to support both the loss and celebration by community members and groups;
- To hold community based memorial services following the death of a homeless individual;
- To have a verified communication system regarding the death of an individual who has experienced homelessness; and
- To develop a community wide data system that tracks the number of deaths due to homelessness in London.

Over the past two years a Memorial Project working group and Environmental and Parks Planning have worked cooperatively together to recommend a monument design that is suitable for installation under the City of London’s Public Monument Policy. The design calls for a plaque on a rock placed in a gravel area within Campbell Park. Numerous potential sites within the Downtown Area were reviewed for their suitability to receive this small ‘monument’. Campbell Park was selected as it permits the placement of the monument discretely in a public park that has a meaningful history and context.

The London Homeless Coalition has raised \$11,850 for the costs of the installation. Contributors to the fundraising project include the London-St. Thomas Real Estate Board, Kings College Social Work students, agencies and individuals. No additional City maintenance is required for this project. There is the opportunity for the London Homeless Coalition to remain involved through the City of London’s existing “Adopt a Park” program.

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The membership of the London Homeless Coalition have approved the monument design, the location for the monument and the proposed language for the plaque.

A permanent monument in London commemorating lives lost as a result of homelessness links to our efforts on reducing and preventing homelessness. This effort directly contributes to Council's vision and efforts of a caring community.

Acknowledgement

Staff from Environmental and Parks Planning have provided input into this report.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
JAN RICHARDSON MANAGER, HOMELESSNESS NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES

- C. Bill Coxhead, Managing Director, Parks & Recreation
Andrew Macpherson, Manager, Parks Planning and Design