



City of Hamilton

EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 21-005

Date: May 6, 2021

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall (CC)

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Tamara Bates, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 4102

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.1. Correspondence from Sean Ferris, Habitat for Humanity, Hamilton, respecting affordable housing

Emergency and Community Services Committee
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

April 29, 2021

Dear Chair Nann, and members of the Emergency and Community Services Committee,

As many of you know, Habitat for Humanity Hamilton is active in the greater Hamilton area, working to alleviate the affordable housing crisis. We bring communities together to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter, as we serve local residents.

I want to congratulate the City and the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the federal funding announcement, whereby Hamilton will receive \$145.6 million in funding from the federal government for the repair and regeneration of 6,290 affordable housing units. This funding will no doubt improve many lives and contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community.

Last spring, when covid-19 was declared a global pandemic and made its first marks on our City, Habitat Hamilton regrouped to determine how we can leverage our skill sets to better support our community. Shortly thereafter, we launched a pilot program called RePair Rescue, providing complimentary exterior home repairs to local Hamilton homeowners facing socio-economic challenges. The program was made possible via the Hamilton Community Foundation's Pandemic Response Fund. It was a great success in supporting vulnerable community members maintain safe and healthy shelter when they need it most.

Our RePair Rescue program has expanded this year, with funding recently received from AlectraCares. We're also in the midst of launching a social enterprise component of the initiative (called RePair), whereby we provide home repairs at fair market value to the general public. Surplus revenues from this program will help support RePair Rescue and our Home Build Program. This program will both create jobs in the skilled trades and help build additional affordable housing units.

Habitat Hamilton recognizes the need for our organization to continuously grow, adapt, and explore new financial models that help move our stakeholders through the housing continuum, and we are seeking likeminded partners who are willing to step up to meet the needs of Hamiltonians.

I'm reaching out today to express interest in discussing how Habitat Hamilton can provide the skills, expertise and support to facilitate repairs on the designated affordable housing units receiving financial support from CMHC as well as opportunities to add new affordable housing units in partnership with the City.

Further, we would be happy to provide the committee with information regarding our programs and how a partnership with Habitat Hamilton will assist those in need of affordable housing and repairs to housing and help ensure that taxpayer dollars are put to the best use to make the largest, positive impact possible. We are eager to assist to ensure more Hamiltonians have a safe and decent place to live.



We build strength, stability and self-reliance.

I welcome you to reach me directly, either by telephone at 905-560-6707 ext. 108 or by email at sean@habitathamilton.ca.

Thank you for helping us build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter and congratulations again on the recent announcement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Ferris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sean Ferris
Executive Director
sean@habitathamilton.ca
905 560 6706 x 108

cc: Mayor Fred Eisenberger
cc: Tom Hunter
cc: Paul Johnson