



City of Hamilton

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 21-022
Date: November 8, 2021
Time: 3:00 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

Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 3993

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November 8, 2021

Re: 2022 City of Hamilton Municipal Budgeting Process

Dear Members of the General Issues Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide pre-budgetary comments as you begin deliberations on the 2022 City of Hamilton Municipal Budgeting Process.

As President and CEO of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton's oldest institution at 176 years old, I have the privilege of speaking for our 1,000+ members that employ over 75,000 people in our community.

Throughout the past 20 months, the Chamber has been a lifeline for local businesses hosting over 40 webinars on pandemic response related subjects, conducting advocacy to all three levels of government based on the feedback of our members, and partnering with the City to launch the Hamilton COVID Concierge for Business support service, which has provided direct, one-on-one support to hundreds of Hamilton-area businesses.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Just Recovery Coalition colleagues for their steadfast leadership and inclusive vision for the future prosperity of our community. This initiative has brought together a diverse group of our community's brightest leaders and their organizational expertise to help inform a post-pandemic recovery for the City of Hamilton. The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is proud to have participated in this initiative and help to advance its recommendations.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated previously existing challenges in our community related to supporting local economic development and workforce participation. The Chamber would like to highlight some of the key recommendations from the Just Recovery Community Coalition that will serve to improve local workforce development conditions and enable our economy to recover.

Looking to understand and address the gender disparities that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our local labour market, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce conducted the Women Out of Work study over the course of 2020-2021 that heard from nearly 1,600 self-identified Hamilton women. We know that full economic recovery is not possible if



women are not included. Nor is it possible if women are not provided with fair and equitable opportunities for workforce participation. Since the immediate impact of the first wave, Hamilton women have disproportionately had their careers impacted, their finances strained, and their expectations for unpaid work increase. COVID-19 has unduly affected female-dominated sectors in Canada and women are facing excessive barriers to re-entering the workforce.

We urge all levels of government to continue making strides towards universal, accessible and affordable childcare, which will significantly improve workforce participation and reduce the financial burden of childcare on all Hamilton families. Moreover, the City must do more to offer women's and family specific services and ensure that those initiatives are informed by organizations with particular expertise in the delivery of those services.

Another crucial component of economic recovery pertains to local transportation and the availability of diverse transit options for all Hamiltonians. We must strive for continual improvement of our existing networks to further facilitate local employment participation. We have heard loud and clear from our members that they are in desperate need for talent and that sub-standard transit mobility presents a recruiting impediment. Ensuring that Hamiltonians have affordable options to get to and from work will be crucial to our economic rebound and we must continue to advance the priorities of the BLAST network. The recent commitments to the Hamilton B-Line LRT and the implementation of two-way, near all day GO service are to be celebrated, and will unlock significant employment potential for our community.

Related to the LRT commitment comes the opportunity to permit diverse housing solutions along the transit corridor. There will be significant investments made along the B-Line LRT route, and we must ensure that we are facilitating and enabling a mix of housing types for all income levels. The City must prioritize approvals of housing applications to significantly intensify development along the LRT corridor and further study the benefits of passing inclusionary zoning bylaws to increase the supply of deeply affordable housing.

To ensure that the LRT investment meets the long-term needs of Hamiltonians, robust and inclusive conversations must occur now. The City should pass the terms of reference for the Community Benefits Protocol Advisory Committee, permitting the committee to meet with City staff to discuss how Community Benefits agreements might



be used in COVID-19 recovery. Implementing a Community Benefits Framework based on the experiences of other cities in North America will deliver on a number of items, including, the integration of green building standards, affordable housing requirements, facilitating local employment and social procurement practices, and increasing resident engagement and participation.

Finally, the Chamber would also like to iterate its support for the completion of the City of Hamilton Community Energy and Emissions Plan and to ensure that the plan is supported with specific financial commitments that will facilitate deep energy retrofits of existing residential and non-residential building stock in the City. Our members are facing increasing energy costs and the Chamber encourages all levels of government to champion and enable businesses to pursue retrofits to help reduce their operating costs and also inhibit negative impacts on our local ecosystem. Climate resiliency is paramount to the long-term viability of many of our industries, and the City must work with these organizations to ensure a just energy transition and to preserve local employment opportunities for generations to come.

Once again, thank you to the General Issues Committee for the opportunity to provide comments today. Hamilton Chamber of Commerce looks forward to the conversations in the months ahead as the municipality plans financially for 2022. In light of the pandemic, these budgetary decisions are more important than ever as we balance fiscal responsibility with progressive and ambitious policy making to improve our community for all Hamilton residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keanin Loomis". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keanin Loomis,
President & CEO
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce



United Way
Halton & Hamilton

November 5, 2021

City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of General Issue Committee,

We at United Way Halton & Hamilton are members of the Just Recovery Coalition, and we send this letter of support and solidarity with our partners to underscore the importance of a Municipal Budget that supports a Just Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to engage on the 2022 Municipal Budget Process for the City of Hamilton.

We have all seen the effects of the pandemic over the course of the past 18 months, and we know that these effects have been felt most by our community members who are most vulnerable. As a community organization connected to over 63 social service programs in Hamilton, United Way is committed to supporting our neighbours in need. Mental health concerns, affordability and subsequently safe housing and access to food are issues that Hamiltonians are facing at increased levels right now, and this is especially true for those who are racialized, disabled, elderly, women, or otherwise marginalized. We support these community members through our funding, capacity building, and support of the social sector in Hamilton, yet we also support them by calling on you, City Council and General Issues Committee, to keep these vulnerable community members at the forefront as you determine the 2022 Budget.

The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 have transformed every aspect of our community and individual lives, and people who were already experiencing inequities, including poverty, homelessness and social isolation, have been disproportionately hurt by the pandemic. Marginalized people have required even more supports during this time. Their needs, along with the challenges of those pushed into crisis for the first time due to the pandemic, will require our attention now and, likely, much further into the future.

As we have shifted into recovery, we must carry the lessons of the pandemic with us to build a more equitable future. Therefore, we engage with you, our elected officials and all members of our community, to respond to the needs of those most vulnerable, and to plan for a just and equitable future. The City of Hamilton needs to keep those most impacted by the pandemic at the fore as it builds the 2022 budget, and focus on equity, environmental impacts, accessibility, affordability, and community wellbeing for all members of our community.

We look forward to connecting again in the later stages of the budget development process, and to continuing to work together to achieve an equitable recovery from the pandemic.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

From: Sasha Katz
Sent: November 5, 2021 11:49 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Delegation re: General Issues Committee - November 8th

Good morning,

Waking up this morning in my warm home on John Street North feels like an absolute blessing as the weather turns cold and my windows are covered in frost. CAN YOU IMAGINE sleeping outside in these temperatures, ill prepared, and which will only get (much) worse?

I am writing today to add to the many voices delegating at the council meeting on Monday with respect to the city budget and our houseless neighbours.

How does the city continue to fail them? How do the many voices of support for these folks continue to go unnoticed? Why are we not prioritizing the end of homelessness in our city? Why are we spending more on police and consultants to harass and displace these folks rather than prioritize permanent solutions like HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, ADDICTION SUPPORT, SAFE INJECTION SITES, SUPPORT WORKERS?

With the current rental and housing market, ANYONE is vulnerable to becoming houseless. The majority of folks in this city are only a bad month or two away from living out on the streets.

I beg the council to prioritize the review and implementation of the policies set forth by HESN.

I am absolutely appalled at my councillor, Jason Farr's, perspective on these vulnerable folks and his role in ending the injunction which will only lead to more deaths this winter. SHAME SHAME SHAME. What is wrong with the leadership in this city?

Yours very truly,

Sasha Katz

Submitted on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 3:09pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.42.122
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Claire Middel

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: student worker living wage for
the budget process

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 3:36pm Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.212.194
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Louise Concepcion

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address: l

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: student worker living wage for
the budget process

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 6:58pm Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.146
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Kojo Damptey

Name of Organization: Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

Contact Number: 2899215294

Email Address: kdamptey@hcci.ca

Mailing Address: 423 King Street East

Reason(s) for delegation request: Budget deliberation for the 2022 budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 10:38am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.130.75
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Violetta Nikolskaya

Name of Organization: YWCA Hamilton

Contact Number: 905 522 9922, x 100

Email Address: vnikolskaya@ywcahamilton.org

Mailing Address:

75 MacNab Street South

Hamilton, ON

L8P 3C1

Reason(s) for delegation request: To delegate with the Just Recovery Coalition, on behalf of YWCA Hamilton, on matters pertaining to the upcoming budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 11:07am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.130.92
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Thomas Cooper

Name of Organization: Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Contact Number:

Email Address: tom@hamiltonpoverty.ca

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Short presentation at pre-budget hearings November 8th.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 1:54pm Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.146
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Lynda Lukasik

Name of Organization: Environment Hamilton

Contact Number: 9055490900

Email Address: llukasik@environmenthamilton.org

Mailing Address:

51 Stuart Street

Hamilton, L8L 1B5

Reason(s) for delegation request: I am requesting the opportunity to delegate at the November 8th GIC Budget-related meeting. I will be speaking, generally, to EH perspectives on the 2022 Municipal Budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 4:05pm Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.178
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Don McLean

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: 2022 Budget on November 8

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 6:27pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.34.182
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Bill foley

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Student living wage

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 6:59pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.38.108
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Karl Andrus

Name of Organization: Hamilton Community Benefits Network

Contact Number: 2892147636

Email Address: karlandrus@hcbn.ca

Mailing Address: 342 James St N. UPPER

Reason(s) for delegation request: 2022 Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:41am Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.178
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Ian Borsuk

Name of Organization: Environment Hamilton

Contact Number: 9055490900

Email Address: iborsuk@environmenthamilton.org

Mailing Address: 51 Stuart Street

Reason(s) for delegation request: I wish to delegate on November 8th on behalf of the Hamilton Transit Alliance with budget recommendations for the 2022 budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 5:47pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.34.62
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Sarah Jama

Name of Organization: Disability Justice Network of Ontario
(DJNO)

Contact Number:

Email Address: sarah@djno.ca

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Suggestions re: budget on ways
to support houseless disabled residents

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:21pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.143
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Gabriel Baribeau

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request:

As a resident I am demanding the City allocate the necessary funds during budget deliberations to adopt policy which addresses and takes the responsibility to house and care for its growing houseless populations and citizens.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:22pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.136
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Vic Wojciechowska

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Regarding the municipal budget
and recommendations for implementation into housing.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 11:00pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.137
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Matthew Higginson

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Investment in housing and support for encampment residents

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 11:04pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.130.75
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Abedar Kamgari

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Budgeting for housing

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 9:45am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.147

Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Sarah Dawson

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: To push the city to allocate more money for permanent housing options for unhoused residents.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? Yes

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:43pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.34.63
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Katharine King

Name of Organization: Individual submission

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: GIC meeting on Monday November
8th with respect to encampment protocol (budget)

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 9:47am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.147
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: James Lambert

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Comments on budget allocation
for guaranteed housing.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 9:49am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.126.90
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Zeinab Khawaja

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: To speak to the urgent need to significantly increase funding for services and housing/affordable housing for homeless Hamiltonians in the next budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 10:57am Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.178

Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Tanya Collins

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: I'd like to speak to council about housing policy and funding for housing.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 11:20am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.216.143
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Joanna Aitcheson

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Invest in housing.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 11:54am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.134.102
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Caitlin Thompson

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Budget process

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 11:59am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.38.107
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: SABREINA DAHAB

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Speaking to municipal city
budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Friday, November 5, 2021 - 11:59am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.42.93
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Merima

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Delegate on housing budget
issues

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:12am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.38.136
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Marnie

Name of Organization: Schurter

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Prerecorded video for the committee meeting Monday, November 8th on Hamilton's 2022 City Budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 11:06am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.63.125
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Michael Lopez

Name of Organization: Hamilton ACORN

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: Pre recorded video for
committee meeting Monday, November 8th on Hamilton's municipal
budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

T

From: >

Sent: November 5, 2021 9:26 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Budget meeting - official correspondence

Hello - can you kindly include my email as official correspondence for the Nov 8 Budget meeting?

My name is Laura Katz and I am a resident in Ward 1. I am calling/pleading/begging you all to take immediate action to ensure all unhoused individuals , including encampment members have the means to survive the winter. I am asking you to allocate any and all necessary funds during this budget deliberation to adopt the below policies in order to stop the displacement and criminalization of encampment residents. Housing is a basic human right.

The housing crisis in Hamilton is so very real. I recently was looking at rental properties with my father, who was recently renovicted, and it was GRIM. We saw multiple units which were totally unsuitable, including a 2 bedroom with a shared kitchen, going for \$2200/month. As of today I believe he has found something: a nice 1 bedroom in a multiple unit dwelling for \$2500/month. Unfortunately compared to what we've seen, this seems rather reasonable. It's not! Not many can afford this. I certainly couldn't.

Winter is coming. Last night I turned off my outdoor water tap so it wouldn't burst. Did you do the same? Let's provide our houseless neighbours with dignity and respect.

This absolutely must be prioritized in the budget.

Policies:

Housing Policy

1. The City of Hamilton must **adopt a compassion and universal houselessness policy** eliminating any waiting periods to access additional supports towards housing.
2. The City of Hamilton must embrace a legal **responsibility to house.**

Accessibility Policies in Shelters

1. Shelters systems are reactive measures to systemic failure of governments to offer housing to all members of the public. Shelter systems are spaces where members of our community are subjected to strict qualification requirements and can even be banned from accessing shelter spaces. Shelter systems, like other systems which seek to criminalize members of the public rather than prioritize alternatives, must be abolished.

2. **Establishment of a Shelter Advisory Committee** of present and past shelter residents advise on improving shelter operations and appropriate housing options. Consultations should include discussions about accessibility, vaccine uptake, and general administration.
3. Pending the access of all to safe, dignified housing, **the City of Hamilton will unilaterally adopt accessibility policies around harm reduction**, including but not limited to:
 1. Policy around **the right to exist in shelter space as you are**, including but not limited to allowing use of drugs in designated shelters

- **Identifying shelters friendly to drug users**

1. Funding shelters to **permanently hire staff trained in safe consumption**
2. **Collaborate with shelter residents who use drugs** to determine and help implement what harm reduction policies, programs and practices work best for the residents at the sites where they reside.
3. Shelter systems are spaces where members of our community are subjected to strict qualification requirements and can even be banned from accessing shelter spaces due to what is often called disruptive behaviour. **The labelling of disability related and mental health related symptoms as disruptive is ableist, and this practice must end.**
4. **Only two accessible women's shelters exist in Hamilton.** The City of Hamilton must build more.
 1. There is no housing standard through the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, though disability activists at the AODA alliance have pushed for this for years. **The City of Hamilton must be in compliance with AODA, but also work beyond AODA to ensure these policies centre accessibility**
 2. The City of Hamilton **will secure accessible temporary housing options specifically for people with disabilities immediately.**
 3. **Keep shelter bed access transparent.** The City of Hamilton must publicize daily Wrap-up Code data (no suitable bed available at time of call) and Service Queue Daily Close-out (no bed provided by 4 AM), information made online for access by all.
 4. **Provincially-funded exceptional relationships with Hamilton Police Services**, such as "reserved" crisis centre beds, and extended stays afforded to only police-referred cases at the expense of general referrals, create a surmountable inequity within the shelter system. They must end.

Expropriation Policy

1. The expropriation of municipal lands for infrastructure should be extended towards the apprehension of infrastructure for affordable housing. The City of Hamilton must advocate for the expropriation of buildings towards housing and supports.
2. The City of Hamilton must develop expropriation strategies that include, but are not limited to:
 1. expropriating buildings owned by landlords with repeated health and safety violations
 2. expropriation of abandoned / vacant buildings

3. expropriation from landlords with over 1000 units
4. expropriation of unused lands to protect against speculation and commercial development

Cold Alerts, Inclement Weather and Warming Centres

1. Issue a cold alert / inclement weather alert when Environment Canada forecasts, for the City of Hamilton:
 1. **Cold:** A temperature of -5°C or colder, or a temperature above -5°C with a windchill -10°C or below.
 2. **Freezing rain:** When freezing rain is expected to pose a hazard to transportation or property or when freezing rain is expected for at least two hours.
 3. **Snowfall:** When 15 cm or more of snow falls within 12 hours or less.
 4. **Rainfall in winter:** When 25 mm or more of rain is expected within 24 hours
2. During active inclement weather alerts, require City operated and funded facilities to:
 1. **Drop-in centers accept as many clients as possible** within COVID, Public Health and Toronto Fire Occupancy standards.
 2. **Refrain from refusing walk-in access** to any sector-appropriate shelter, admitting individuals without forcing them to undergo typical intake and eligibility procedures
 3. **Allow clients to access any sector appropriate shelter**, not only assigned shelter for the night
 4. **Staffing.** Fully staff warming and respite centres, including such as:
 1. harm reduction services and supplies
 2. hot meals
 3. wi-fi
 5. **24H respite/warming centres.** Activate at least two 24H warming centres to address overflow and social distancing protocols.
 6. **No shelter bans.** No shelter suspensions or sanctions can be carried out during cold weather alerts. Any clients who have been sanctioned/suspended/banned can return to the shelter during these periods.
 1. The City of Hamilton must make public its shelter ban/suspension procedures and anonymized data around their application.
3. Create an Inclement Weather Staffing Fund and make it available to warming and respite centre operators to place additional staff on shift during inclement weather alerts.

With thanks,

Laura Katz

On 2021-11-05 09:25, laura@katz.net wrote:

Hello - can you kindly include my email as official correspondence for the Nov 8 Budget meeting?

My name is Laura Katz and I am a resident in Ward 1. I am calling/pleading/begging you all to take immediate action to ensure all unhoused individuals, including encampment members have the means to survive the winter. I am asking you to allocate any and all necessary funds during this budget deliberation to adopt the below policies in order to stop the displacement and criminalization of encampment residents. Housing is a basic human right.

The housing crisis in Hamilton is so very real. I recently was looking at rental properties with my father, who was recently renovicted, and it was GRIM. We saw multiple units which were totally unsuitable, including a 2 bedroom with a shared kitchen, going for \$2200/month. As of today I believe he has found something: a nice 1 bedroom in a multiple unit dwelling for \$2500/month. Unfortunately compared to what we've seen, this seems rather reasonable. It's not! Not many can afford this. I certainly couldn't.

Winter is coming. Last night I turned off my outdoor water tap so it wouldn't burst. Did you do the same? Let's provide our houseless neighbours with dignity and respect.

This absolutely must be prioritized in the budget.

Policies:

Housing Policy

1. The City of Hamilton must **adopt a compassion and universal houselessness policy** eliminating any waiting periods to access additional supports towards housing.
2. The City of Hamilton must embrace a legal **responsibility to house**.

Accessibility Policies in Shelters

1. Shelters systems are reactive measures to systemic failure of governments to offer housing to all members of the public. Shelter systems are spaces where members of our community are subjected to strict qualification requirements and can even be banned from accessing shelter spaces. Shelter systems, like other systems which seek to criminalize members of the public rather than prioritize alternatives, must be abolished.
2. **Establishment of a Shelter Advisory Committee** of present and past shelter residents advise on improving shelter operations and appropriate housing options. Consultations should include discussions about accessibility, vaccine uptake, and general administration.

3. Pending the access of all to safe, dignified housing, **the City of Hamilton will unilaterally adopt accessibility policies around harm reduction**, including but not limited to:
 1. Policy around **the right to exist in shelter space as you are**, including but not limited to allowing use of drugs in designated shelters
- **Identifying shelters friendly to drug users**
 1. Funding shelters to **permanently hire staff trained in safe consumption**
 2. **Collaborate with shelter residents who use drugs** to determine and help implement what harm reduction policies, programs and practices work best for the residents at the sites where they reside.
 3. Shelter systems are spaces where members of our community are subjected to strict qualification requirements and can even be banned from accessing shelter spaces due to what is often called disruptive behaviour. **The labelling of disability related and mental health related symptoms as disruptive is ableist, and this practice must end.**
 4. **Only two accessible women's shelters exist in Hamilton.** The City of Hamilton must build more.
 1. There is no housing standard through the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, though disability activists at the AODA alliance have pushed for this for years. **The City of Hamilton must be in compliance with AODA, but also work beyond AODA to ensure these policies centre accessibility**
 2. The City of Hamilton **will secure accessible temporary housing options specifically for people with disabilities immediately.**
 3. **Keep shelter bed access transparent.** The City of Hamilton must publicize daily Wrap-up Code data (no suitable bed available at time of call) and Service Queue Daily Close-out (no bed provided by 4 AM), information made online for access by all.
 4. **Provincially-funded exceptional relationships with Hamilton Police Services**, such as "reserved" crisis centre beds, and extended stays afforded to only police-referred cases at the expense of general referrals, create a surmountable inequity within the shelter system. They must end.

Expropriation Policy

1. The expropriation of municipal lands for infrastructure should be extended towards the apprehension of infrastructure for affordable housing. The City of Hamilton must advocate for the expropriation of buildings towards housing and supports.
2. The City of Hamilton must develop expropriation strategies that include, but are not limited to:
 1. expropriating buildings owned by landlords with repeated health and safety violations
 2. expropriation of abandoned / vacant buildings
 3. expropriation from landlords with over 1000 units
 4. expropriation of unused lands to protect against speculation and commercial development

Cold Alerts, Inclement Weather and Warming Centres

1. Issue a cold alert / inclement weather alert when Environment Canada forecasts, for the City of Hamilton:
 1. **Cold:** A temperature of -5°C or colder, or a temperature above -5°C with a windchill -10°C or below.
 2. **Freezing rain:** When freezing rain is expected to pose a hazard to transportation or property or when freezing rain is expected for at least two hours.
 3. **Snowfall:** When 15 cm or more of snow falls within 12 hours or less.
 4. **Rainfall in winter:** When 25 mm or more of rain is expected within 24 hours

2. During active inclement weather alerts, require City operated and funded facilities to:
 1. **Drop-in centers accept as many clients as possible** within COVID, Public Health and Toronto Fire Occupancy standards.
 2. **Refrain from refusing walk-in access** to any sector-appropriate shelter, admitting individuals without forcing them to undergo typical intake and eligibility procedures
 3. **Allow clients to access any sector appropriate shelter**, not only assigned shelter for the night
 4. **Staffing.** Fully staff warming and respite centres, including such as:
 1. harm reduction services and supplies
 2. hot meals
 3. wi-fi
 5. **24H respite/warming centres.** Activate at least two 24H warming centres to address overflow and social distancing protocols.
 6. **No shelter bans.** No shelter suspensions or sanctions can be carried out during cold weather alerts. Any clients who have been sanctioned/suspended/banned can return to the shelter during these periods.
 1. The City of Hamilton must make public its shelter ban/suspension procedures and anonymized data around their application.

3. Create an Inclement Weather Staffing Fund and make it available to warming and respite centre operators to place additional staff on shift during inclement weather alerts.

With thanks,

Laura Katz