

CITY OF HAMILTON

M O T I O N

General Issues Committee: May 4, 2016

MOVED BY MAYOR EISENBERGER.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. COLLINS.....

Initiative to Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Poverty by Investing in People

WHEREAS, our most important form of capital is human capital, and the most important infrastructure is human infrastructure;

WHEREAS, we are all striving to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child; we want every child in Hamilton to grow up to meet his or her full potential thereby preparing the next generation of adults to be full participants in their own communities;

WHEREAS, the conditions in which people are born, live, grow, and age all effect the overall wellbeing of individuals and communities - low income almost inevitably ensures poor health and significant health inequity; 19% of Hamiltonians live below the Low Income Cut-off and 22% of all Hamilton children live in poverty;

WHEREAS, the lack of stable and quality housing negatively impacts people, families and young people in particular. There are over 5,700 individuals and families on the waiting list for social housing in Hamilton. The deferred maintenance of the social housing stock in Hamilton would require approximately \$200 million to be brought into a state of good repair;

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton (CHH) has annualized capital requirements of \$16 million and this year received \$8.2 million, resulting in an annualized shortfall of \$8 million; and, further, CHH this year received \$11.4 million for operating maintenance expenses, and requires an additional \$2 million annually to keep all units maintained and available for rent, resulting in about 90 units that are currently unavailable for rent; and,

WHEREAS, Hamilton has a strong history of local collaboration on many initiatives and numerous strategies including the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, Neighbourhood Action Strategy, the Mayor’s Youth Strategy, 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Action Plan, and the Hamilton Best Start Network. Hamilton has put in place the right conditions for success and it is time to move forward on the next chapter in reducing poverty in Hamilton;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$20 million be allocated to increase affordable housing and improve the state of good repair with funds derived by extending the payback term for existing City loans from the Future Fund from 2031 to 2036;
- (b) That \$3 million a year over 10 years be allocated toward poverty reduction with the funds derived from the dividend uplift to the City resulting from the merger of Horizon Utilities Corporation and several other local utilities into the new entity provisionally called MergeCo;
- (c) That staff be directed to develop a 10 year integrated poverty reduction plan to include:
 - (i) Key components informed by engagement with partners such as the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, Hamilton Community Foundation, Hamilton Best Start Network, Aboriginal Network, and stakeholders from health, education, housing, employment, and those with lived experience of poverty;
 - (ii) Leveraging of existing services and partnerships, as well as augmenting and assisting successful programs in order to maximize their impact;
 - (iii) Appropriate measurement and outcome indicators to track the progress and success of this initiative;
 - ~~(iv) Delegate authority to execute the plan approved by council, as identified in item (d) of this motion, to the director of Emergency and Community Services and the medical officer of health;~~
 - (v) Funding from non-tax and non-rate supported revenues and reserves; and,
 - (vi) Leveraging of funding commitments in the form of loans and grants from senior levels of government, school boards, and foundations as well as other potential contributors from the private sector; and,
- (d) That staff be directed to report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee by October 2016 with a Plan to Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Poverty by Investing in People for consideration and approval by Council.
- (e) That, upon Council approval of the forthcoming Plan to Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Poverty by Investing in People (the "Plan"), the General Manager of Emergency & Community Services and the Medical Officer of Health be delegated the authority to execute the Plan.