

# **CITY OF HAMILTON**

## **MOTION**

**Emergency & Community Services:** February 6, 2017

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....**

**SECONDED BY MAYOR / COUNCILLOR.....**

### **Housing First Services Funding**

WHEREAS, ending chronic homelessness has been identified as a community priority in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, research has shown that Housing First is a proven housing intervention for addressing chronic homelessness;

WHEREAS, studies regarding Housing First interventions demonstrate that 80% - 85% of program participants remain housed after one year;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has demonstrated success in reducing chronic homelessness through the use of Housing First strategies;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Hamilton exceeded our target by housing 200 chronically homeless individuals;

WHEREAS, 92% of these individuals have remained housed;

WHEREAS, in February 2016, Hamilton identified through our Point-in-Time Count approximately 350 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness;

WHEREAS, it is more cost effective to provide permanent housing to someone who is experiencing chronic homelessness than to manage their homelessness through emergency shelters or hospitals;

WHEREAS, studies show that savings come in the form of the foregone emergency, crisis or specialized services (hospitals, shelters, jails etc.) no longer utilized by people once they are housed and their lives are stable;

WHEREAS, the savings can range anywhere from \$17,000 to \$80,000 per person, per year if they are permanently housed;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the average cost of housing an individual through Housing First interventions is \$27,000; and,

WHEREAS, the funding available to support Housing First services in the community falls short of what is required to fully address chronic homelessness in Hamilton;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That the Mayor correspond with the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada requesting the Government of Canada to adequately fund the City of Hamilton to deliver the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) program. The letter shall request an annual funding enhancement in the amount of \$1M until March 31, 2019 which is over and above the \$4,228,254 already being granted to the City to provide homelessness programs and services through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy; and,
- b) That the Mayor correspond with the Minister of Housing requesting the Government of Ontario to adequately fund the City of Hamilton as Service Manager to deliver the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program. The letter shall request an annual funding enhancement in the amount of \$3M which is over and above the \$19,073,700 already being granted to the City to provide homelessness programs and services through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.