



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Housing Services Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 11, 2018
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for People with Disabilities (HSC18046) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Greg Witt (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4818
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Vicki Woodcox Acting Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for People with Disabilities attached as Appendix A to Report HSC18046, be approved; and,
- (b) That the item respecting “A Guide to Finding Housing for Persons with Disabilities in the City of Hamilton” be removed from the Outstanding Business Item List.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for People with Disabilities (“The Guidebook”) was developed to raise awareness for the housing needs of people with a disability as well as provide a tool to assist such people in finding appropriate housing solutions. It was developed by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), supported by city staff from Human Resources and the Housing Services Division.

The Guidebook looks at housing through the lens of a person experiencing a disability. It is broken into eleven sections providing a range of material from general housing information to information about respite care, safety features and responses to frequently asked questions asked by people with disabilities about housing in the community. The main component of the Guidebook is the Conditions and Special Needs section which provides nuanced descriptions of particular types of disabilities/conditions, the types of housing challenges experienced by individuals who live with each condition and then a menu of information about the resources available in the community to best assist

individuals with those conditions navigate the housing system to address those specific housing needs.

### **Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

### **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial:**

City staff will support the ACPD to print and distribute 125 copies of the Guidebook to key stakeholders. The estimated cost for printing and distributing the Guidebook will be \$1,130 paid through the Housing Services Division budget Dept. ID 673000 account #55405.

#### **Staffing:**

There are no staffing implications associated with Report HSC18046.

#### **Legal:**

There are no legal implications associated with Report HSC18046.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities completed a strategic planning exercise in 2016 and identified the following priorities: housing issues, transportation, outreach, the built environment and wheelchair/scooter safety.

On February 22, 2017, Council approved the December 13, 2016 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Report 16-012, which directed the following:

1. Formation of a Working Group to Create an Information Source for People with Disabilities Looking for Appropriate Housing.
  - (a) That a working group be formed to produce a comprehensive information source for people with disabilities looking for appropriate housing for their specific needs, and
  - (b) That a staff person from the Housing Division be provided to support the working group to liaise with the various housing and service providers in conjunction with the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

With the assistance of staff liaisons from Corporate Services, Human Resources and the Housing Services Division, the ACPD Housing Working Group worked diligently to develop the detailed Guidebook.

On July 9, 2018, the General Issues Committee (GIC) received a presentation by members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Housing Working Group respecting a Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for Persons with Disabilities. The Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for People with Disabilities, presented by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, was referred to staff for the appropriate assessment and a report back to the Special General Issues Committee meeting, scheduled for September 11, 2018, where the implications of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) are being discussed.

While the document is intended to be circulated in advance of the municipal election, a formal launch of the Guidebook will occur at the National Housing Day event, which will take place in November 2018. The distribution plan consists of circulating electronic versions of the Guidebook to the ACPD's key networks such as the Seniors Advisory Committee, the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and the Housing and Homelessness Planning Group. Second, the plan is to maximize the Guidebook's online presence by making it available on the City's Housing Services webpage, as well as to maximize its reach on social media by asking key stakeholders to cascade links to the Guidebook to their followers via Twitter, Facebook and other means. The final component is distribution of hard copies of the Guidebook to key service providers including but not limited to the Housing Help Centre of Hamilton, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, March of Dimes, AbleLiving Services, Autism Hamilton, Alzheimer's Society of Hamilton and Halton, Brain Injury Services of Hamilton, Choices and Community Living; the hard copies can be made available as reference material on site or be made available directly to local people in need.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The language in the Guidebook complies with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA).

The City of Hamilton's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan takes an 'equity-based' and 'person-centred' approach to housing. Strategy 4.7 focuses on supporting the implementation of accessible housing.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The Guidebook was created by members of the ACPD Housing Working Group.

Healthy and Safe Communities Department staff from the Housing Services Division have reviewed the Guidebook to ensure its content is accurate and aligns with the Division's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. The Housing Services Division supports the Guidebook.

The Guidebook has been professionally formatted in order for the document to meet the standards for people with disabilities. This includes being reviewed by Human Resources staff.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The ACPD exists to identify and raise awareness about the barriers that impact the lives of persons with disabilities, and to make recommendations to Council on how to prevent and eliminate such barriers.

Targeted resources that assist people with disabilities find and make decisions around housing are limited. This Guidebook includes resources, information and tools to provide people with disabilities with support to meet their housing needs.

The Guidebook is informed by Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, which is a 10-year person-centred plan to make sure that everyone in Hamilton has a home. The Guidebook builds on the progress of the Action Plan by filling the gaps in housing specific information and related services for persons with disabilities.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

None

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Community Engagement & Participation**

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

### **Healthy and Safe Communities**

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

### **Built Environment and Infrastructure**

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix A to Report HSC18046: Guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton for People with Disabilities