

Added Item 12.3

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee: February 21, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....

Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton's rental housing market has experienced significant change over the last decade;

WHEREAS, the local demand for affordable housing and supportive housing has grown at a faster pace than supply;

WHEREAS, Hamilton's limited housing supply and long Social Housing Waitlist are contributing factors to the increased need for shelter services;

WHEREAS, women's shelters in the City of Hamilton regularly exceed capacity, forcing them to turn away women on a frequent basis;

WHEREAS, it is well documented that abuse and domestic violence are the primary causes of homelessness for women;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one third of homeless women have been physically and/or sexually assaulted while living on the street

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ2 community are estimated to be over-represented among the homeless, with transgendered women being particularly over-represented as a result of exclusion; and,

WHEREAS, Intersections of identities such as race, sexual orientation, and gender expression create unique experiences of housing instability and homelessness. As a result, transgender youth and adults, who identify as or express a gender that is different from their birth sex, can experience difficulties in obtaining adequate and safe shelter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton investigate increasing the capacity of local women's housing and support services to fulfill the short, medium and long term need for increased services for women;
- (b) That City staff report back on the feasibility of implementing non discrimination policies and practices in emergency shelters that protects people on the basis of gender identity or expression;

- (c) That a Sub-Committee of Council (Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women Sub-Committee) be formed to address the supply and provision of women's housing and support services; and,
- (d) That the Sub-Committee report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee prior to the 2020 Capital and Operating Budget processes with recommendations that seek to address service level shortfalls.