

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee: February 21, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR / COUNCILLOR.....

Establishing a Gender and Equity Lens on Housing Services

WHEREAS, the Federal Government uses a Gender and Equity Based Analysis (GBA+) to inform the flow of federal housing dollars and has mandated that 25% of National Housing Strategy Investments, or \$10B of a total of \$40B will specifically fund housing initiatives which meet the unique needs of Women and their families;

WHEREAS, the experience of homelessness and precarious housing in Hamilton is different for women and the need to increase stock and space for a continuum of Women’s housing options are both well documented;

WHEREAS, the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities stated at General Issues Committee on Jan 18, 2019, that “the pressure on the shelter providers for women is more acute than men’s and we need to reflect on how we better respond to this than hotels”;

WHEREAS, the City does not have a consistent gender and equity lens on housing and shelter services. But there is measurable benefit in applying one given the difference in experience and added vulnerability of homelessness for women, transwomen and non-binary people;

WHEREAS, women are a fast-growing homeless population;

WHEREAS, the City has a current waitlist for housing of 6,139, and we may presume that near half are women;

WHEREAS, the absence of a gendered lens may impact our ability as a city to secure federal funding in the future; and,

WHEREAS, a winning model in Hamilton, led by YWCA Hamilton was recently awarded \$10M in funding for affordable housing for women-led households and women with developmental disabilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to develop and integrate a consistent gender & equity framework, inclusive of evaluative tools, to the City's Housing & Homelessness Strategy and service delivery; and,
- (b) That staff identify projects, both existing and new, which fit the GBA+ requirements of the National Housing Strategy Investment program, to ensure that the City of Hamilton is serving gendered and equity seeking populations adequately, and to increase Hamilton's opportunities to receive investment from the Federal Fund.