



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Housing Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 4, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Establishment of a Sub-Committee of Council: Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee (HSC19017) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Greg Tedesco (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7168 Yolisa de Jager (905) 546-2423 Ext. 3863
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward John Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That the Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC19017, be approved; and,
- (b) That the Outstanding Business List item identified as the preparation of a Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee, be removed from the Outstanding Business List and considered complete.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to an Emergency and Community Services Committee motion approved by Council on February 27, 2019 regarding the request to prepare a Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee, proposed to consist of City Council and citizen representation, will report to City Council regarding emerging issues as required pertaining to expanding housing and support services for women, transgender and gender non-binary identified

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persons to address the intersections of identities such as race, sexual orientation, and gender identity which create unique experiences of housing instability and homelessness. The Sub-Committee will report through the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications to Report HSC19017.

Staffing: Staff resources from the Housing Services Division, Healthy and Safe Communities Department will be required to convene and support the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee. This can be accomplished with the existing staff complement.

A Legislative Coordinator, from the City Clerk's Office will be required to facilitate this Sub-Committee which can be accomplished through the existing staff complement.

Legal: There are no legal implications to Report HSC19017.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On February 27, 2019, Council approved amended motion 11.6 - Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women from the Emergency and Community Services Committee. The approved motion included the following items:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton investigate increasing the capacity of local women's and Transgender Community's housing and support services to fulfil the short, medium and long term need for increased services for women and Transgender Community;
- (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 and Transgender Community Sub-Committee) be formed to address the supply and provision of women's and transgender community's housing and support services;

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- (d) That staff be directed to prepare a Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee; and,
- (e) 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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The establishment of the Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee supports the focus on an equity perspective identified in Hamilton’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and aligns with Action Plan Outcome 5: “Equity” - People receive respectful, quality services within a “user-friendly” system and experience equality in housing.

An equity perspective recognizes the unique experiences of housing insecurity and homelessness for specific populations. Gender, Indigenous identity, sexual orientation, age, race and ability have a significant impact on these experiences of housing instability and homelessness.

Aligned with the ongoing work of coordinated access and systems planning in Hamilton’s homelessness serving system, Housing Services Division staff will utilize best practice, data, and ongoing consultation through the support of the Sub-Committee, ensuring that issues of equity and inclusion remain an important part of Hamilton’s housing solutions and inform the City of Hamilton’s decision making processes. Once formed, the Sub-Committee will be required to report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee prior to the 2020 Capital and Operating Budget processes with recommendations that seek to address any service level shortfalls.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Office of the City Clerk was consulted respecting the availability of a Legislative Coordinator to facilitate the Sub-Committee meeting process following the establishment of the Sub-Committee.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Council directed that a Sub-Committee of Council be established with the mandate to address the supply and provision of women’s and transgender community’s housing and support services.

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In particular, the role of the Sub-committee is intended to assist in evaluating and exploring options to increase the capacity of local women's and transgender community's housing and support services to fulfil the short, medium and long term need for increased services.

A Terms of Reference has been drafted for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee and is attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC19017. A work plan would include such items as:

- Respond to emerging issues as required: make decisions, informed by best practice, data, and ongoing consultation, reporting to the City of Hamilton's staff and Council on issues that address the supply and provision of women's and transgender community's housing and support services relating to homelessness and housing instability;
- Work collaboratively with institutions and relevant organizations to promote proactive measures pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion; and,
- Consult with individuals and groups regarding high level community trends related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as initiation and facilitation of discussions between individuals and groups to address concerns regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

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

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report HSC19017: Terms of Reference for the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-Committee

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