




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 20, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Encampment Response (HSC19029) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rob Mastroianni (905) 546-2424 Ext. 8035
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward John Director, Housing Services Division Healthy & Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

Encampments of street involved or homeless individuals have been increasingly visible in the community over the past several months. Encampments are a complex issue, with multiple factors contributing to individuals staying outdoors. On an ongoing basis, City and homelessness serving agency staff work to engage with individuals experiencing outdoor homelessness in order to refer and make connections to support and appropriate resources.

In order to respond through an integrated and collaborative approach, representatives from various City departments have been meeting on a regular basis since June 2018. This group is co-chaired by Housing Services Division and Public Health Services and includes representatives from Municipal Law Enforcement, Hamilton Paramedic Service, Hamilton Police Service (including Social Navigation Program), Waste Collections, and Parks & Cemeteries. The group also ensures collaboration and connection to community agencies which provide direct housing, emergency response, social, and mental health supports to those experiencing outdoor homelessness.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The goal of this ongoing group is to ensure active encampment sites are known in a timely manner, allowing for person-centred engagement opportunities and individualized housing plans. This also provides an opportunity to identify gaps in response efforts and assess risk level of the encampment to determine steps that may need to be taken based on City of Hamilton By-Laws.

If Councillors or the internal City departments noted above become aware of someone they believe is homeless and requires assistance, they can send an e-mail to MHSOP@hamilton.ca. The general public can also be directed to call Intensive Case Management Access Coordination (IntAc) at 905-528-0683. All reports will be followed up on, however due to the complexity and needs of individuals, it often takes time and multiple engagement efforts to determine appropriate options.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None