

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: October 16, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

Multi-Use Community Hub for Diverse and Marginalized Communities

WHEREAS, according to StatsCan reports, Hamilton has the highest level of police reported hate crimes per capita in three of the last five years, while also recognizing not all hate crimes and incidents are reported to police;

WHEREAS, since December 2018 there have been weekly demonstrations held on the forecourt of Hamilton City Hall by extremist individuals and organizations using it as a platform to spread Islamophobic, homophobic, anti-immigrant, and anti-black racist views;

WHEREAS, this year residents have experienced hate-based violence and targeting at Pride, on personal properties, at mosques and on synagogues making communities feel less safe;

WHEREAS, responding to the rising levels of hate in the City of Hamilton requires an approach that includes empathy for lived experiences, clear policies and strategies to de-radicalize extremism, while also adequately resourcing and supporting the resilience of residents facing hate, and actively fostering a sense of solidarity and belonging across communities;

WHEREAS, the *Mapping the Void* report, released in 2019, surveyed over 900 people over the age of 16 who identified as Two-Spirit and LGBTIQ+ in the City of Hamilton reporting 40.9% of respondents had sought services or community outside of Hamilton because they were either not available or sufficient in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that in order to prevent and redress systemic and social inequities policies focused on equity, diversity and inclusion must guide service and programming provision;

WHEREAS, there is a gap in safe spaces, programs and services for Hamiltonians who have been historically marginalized and who have faced hate in their communities, and

there remains a need to better resource community-informed and community-led initiatives that prioritize the needs of marginalized communities in our City;
WHEREAS, community groups play a critical role in meeting these needs and providing accessible and responsive supports and services;

WHEREAS, co-locating community groups increases access for residents while also fostering intersectional collaboration, strengthening integrated service and programing provision among community groups, and helps mitigate the impact of rising costs of operations; and,

WHEREAS, multi-use community hubs are demonstrated models in asset-based community development which provide excellence in meeting the needs of localized and marginalized communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to convene with community groups and organizations engaged in serving equity-seeking communities that are interested in collaborating to develop a business case for a multi-use community hub;
- (b) That the multi-use community hub aim to strengthen community capacity, resilience and responsiveness to address safer space, programming and service needs and gaps for historically marginalized communities; and,
- (c) That the business case for the creation of a “hub” include viable locations, possible sustainable funding sources, a multi-year operations plan and report back to GIC in Q1 2020 for review and approval.