



Hamilton

## **Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes**

**6pm  
Tuesday March 3, 2020**

**71 Main Street West, Hamilton**

James O'Brien, Senior Project Manager Housing & Homelessness  
905-546-2424 x 3728

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**Present:** Tom Mobley, Alexandra Djagba Oli, Tony Manganiello, Violetta Nikolskaya, Rhonda Mayer, Leisha Dawson. Michael Power, Morgan Stanek, Cllr Collins, Julia Verbitsky, Eileen Campbell, Lance Dingman, Sandy Leyland, Shawn Jamieson

**Absent with Regrets:** Sandy Leyland, Cllr Nann, Cllr Wilson, Shaun Jamieson, Mary-Elen Crechiola, Michael Slusarenko

**Absent:**

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### **FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

#### **1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

No changes the agenda

**(Mobley / Leyland)**

**CARRIED**

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **3. Approval of Minutes**

3.1. February 4, 2020 deferred to May meeting.

#### **4. Presentations**

HIPC - City of Hamilton Immigration Partnership Team Presentation & Annual Report

HIPC gave an overview of the focus of their annual report. Areas of focus were:

- the state of affordable housing for newcomers across Canada;
- barriers to affordable housing for newcomers;
- barriers housing service providers and/or agencies face trying to assist newcomers with affordable housing;
- practices for affordable housing for newcomers; and
- newcomer mental health.

Highlighted issues included:

- Rising rent and housing prices have increased the demand for affordable housing across Canada,
- As a result, most affordable housing programs are broad in focus, with few specifically targeting newcomers. Additionally, most newcomer-related programs only target refugee families.
- Lack of affordable housing has real life consequences, as evidenced by this quote from a report on the housing circumstances of refugees in Winnipeg, where newcomers stated, "Unaffordable housing was a drain on family resources, which limited their expenditures on other basic necessities like education, health care, clothing, and food"

HIPC identified 5 barriers newcomers face in their environmental scan:

- Rent is too expensive
- Size of Housing
- Quality of Housing
- Lack of support for housing services
- Newcomer trauma

Four barriers service providers face to provide service:

- Supply of adequate housing
- Fragmentation of agency services and Housing information
- Language & cultural barriers
- Housing landlords

Presentation accepted

**(Leyland/ Nikolskaya)**

**CARRIED**

### **Staff Presentations**

#### Hamilton Services Division Secondary Unit Strategy

- The City of Hamilton has limited resources to invest in creating affordable housing supply.
- Housing Services plans to invest in creating and maintaining second units which are a viable and more cost-effective alternative to help meet growing demand for more affordable housing in the community.
- These investments will create housing supply at a reduced cost per unit
- The project fits within the Province's regulatory framework (PPS, Housing Supply Action Plan) and is aligned to receive funding under the OPHI funding envelope
- Directly aligns and help achieve City meet targets within Hamilton's Housing & Homelessness Action Plans Areas 1 & 2
- Within 3 years, the City can make meaningful investments in second units which will have a demonstrable and immediate impact on

The second units strategy meets the goals in the Action Plan:

- OUTCOME 1—There is more affordable rental and ownership housing in Hamilton to meet the need and demand
  - SMART Target: Increase the number of new and legalized existing secondary units by 25% per year.
  - Outcome 1 –Strategy 4: Develop a strategy and implementation plan to increase the supply of secondary rental units.
- OUTCOME 2—People have more housing affordability and choice
  - SMART Target (outcome 2)—Increase the number of new affordable rental units built outside of the downtown by 25% annually
  - Outcome 2 –Strategy 2:** Increase the diversity of housing forms, types, tenures, and affordability in all urban areas of the City

The focus on the strategy will be based on three pillars:

1.Maintain the supply & improve the quality of existing affordable second units  
#KeepEmHoused

2.Increase the quantity of affordable units #GetEmHoused

3. Educate and increase the knowledge of key stakeholders about the important role second units and the secondary rental market plays as part of Hamilton's long term approach to making housing more affordable

(Leyland / Mobley)

Presentation accepted

**CARRIED**

**4. Discussion Items.**

**5. Motions**

**6. Notice of Motions**

**7. New Business General Information / Business**

- Canadian Alliance and Homelessness - consultation - Lance to share the email
- Hugh Seagull - speaking in Hamilton - Ambassador of Poverty - Main & Bay Centre
- point in time count looking for volunteers
- Friendship Centre - Sandy to provide additional information
- Working Group met to discuss the options to showcase Push - discussion about locations and how to advertise for attendance - budget

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:00

**(Mobley / Nikolskaya)**

**CARRIED**

Next meeting, May , 2020  
City Hall – Room 264 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia Verbitsky  
Chair, Housing and  
Homelessness Advisory  
Committee

James O'Brien  
Senior Project Manager  
Housing Services Division