



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Emergency and Community Services Committee
From:	Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee <div style="text-align: right;"><u>Julia Verbitsky</u> [name], Chair</div>
Date:	September 7 th , 2021
Re:	Payment of Building Fees Associated with Affordable Housing

Recommendation

That the City send correspondence to Premier Ford and Minister Clark, requesting a change legislation to allow municipalities to pay for relevant building fees associated with Affordable Housing through existing City funds.

Background

The City of Hamilton needs more affordable housing. In order to help facilitate more building, it is important to dismantle financial barriers to development. The Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee is recommending that the City of Hamilton proposes to the province an interesting way to reduce the costs of building new affordable housing units in support of affordable housing developers.

The Province should allow cities to use some of the funds from their Building Permit Reserves to defer, waive, or subsidize any fees or charges related to the development process for planning, or building, inclusive of (but not only) planning application fees, building permit fees, and development charges they normally have to pay, upon negotiation that any new units created will meet the criteria of affordable housing.

Analysis/Rationale

The HHAC Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee believe this a valuable tool for the City of Hamilton. This change will create an additional financial tool to help facilitate more affordable housing.

Creating more local control over the financial supports is a meaningful way to streamline approvals and financing for capital projects.

Efficiency and time improvements will help make projects more affordable, delays in projects caused by lack of, or inefficient funding due to municipal building charges is hindering the ability of affordable housing developers to create new affordable housing projects.