

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

EMERGENCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE: January 13, 2022

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. Nann.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

**Comprehensive, Human-rights Based, Health-focused Housing Solutions for Residents Living Encamped across Hamilton**

WHEREAS, the reality of unhoused residents living in encampments is a persistent reality across the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, these encampments have become increasingly visible throughout the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the number of unhoused residents who have been living encamped in Hamilton ranges between 80 to 140 people;

WHEREAS, encampments will persist until the City of Hamilton develops and implements a strategy to eliminate homelessness that addresses the unique health needs experienced by those who are encamped;

WHEREAS, the City’s Housing & Homelessness Strategy is rooted in a solution-focused, person-centred approach and recognizes that best practices for solutions are the result of direct participation of those with lived experience of being unhoused;

WHEREAS, the largest gap in addressing the unique needs of many of those residents who have no other option than to live encamped rests in the lack of comprehensive, coordinated housing and health-based resources with a disproportionate impact on unhoused indigenous people, those unhoused residents living with disabilities, and those unhoused residents of other equity-seeking group that continue to face culture, structural and systemic barriers in accessing appropriate supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, an enforcement led response to the existence of encampments on city property does not solve homelessness, nor result in healing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City staff be directed to host solution-focused planning session(s) made up of representatives from the health sector, housing service

providers, organizations that provide frontline support to the unhoused, people with lived experiences of being unhoused and living in encampments, and other community stakeholders be convened to identify comprehensive, human-rights based, health-focused housing solutions to directly address the needs of those 80 to 140 unhoused residents living encamped in Hamilton;

- (b) That any costs associated in hosting and facilitating the planning session(s) be covered through the existing Housing Services budget; and
- (c) That staff report back the recommendations of these planning session(s) for Council's consideration to the Emergency Community Services Committee.