



PROPOSAL BY HAMILTON ALLIANCE FOR TINY SHELTERS

Emergency and Community Services
Committee Meeting
February 17, 2022

Overview of Recent Consultation

- Following the Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting on February 3, 2022, Housing Services and Planning and Economic Development engaged directly with HATS organizers to better understand their concept and plans.
- City staff facilitated a joint meeting with Housing Services, PED, HATS and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Senior Leadership to understand the Board's requirements that must be satisfied in order for the Sir John A. MacDonald school to be a viable location for the project. The City remains in consultation with HWDSB to understand the viability of the HATS proposal on the proposed SJAM site
- Housing Services staff have received and reviewed the HATS proposal and draft budget.
- Staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department have provided relevant information regarding planning and development approvals related to the implementation of a "tiny cabin" project.

Overview of HATS Proposal

- Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) is a community-led initiative of Hamilton residents and organizations. HATS is currently in the process of becoming incorporated.
- Goal is to set up 10 tiny cabins as soon as possible
- Aim of HATS is to provide those currently unhoused with:
 - regular connection to services and healthcare;
 - stability and structure to help those experiencing homelessness to move along the housing trajectory more successfully; and,
 - to move them from dangerous conditions on the streets into a safer, and stable setting that provides protection from the environment, and regular connection to services and healthcare on a path to stable housing.

HWDSB Criteria

- This would have to be a short-term solution (this winter) as the Board will need to move forward with the next steps for the SJAM property.
- There should be a clear plan on where the permanent location will be for any transition location.
- wrap around supports that are available 24/7 to the residents.
- 24/7 security in order to ensure the safety of residents and the community.
- Many of the inquiries have wanted to use the actual SJAM building to provide certain services. Given the recent flood damage this is not an option.
- The Board would have to ensure that appropriate insurance coverage is available.

HATS Formal Request of City

- \$100,000 in funding for staffing;
- Non-Enforcement of the Radial Distance Separation bylaw, that does not allow for an emergency shelter to be within 300 meters of another;
- Non-enforcement of the requirement to connect to municipal sewer and water services;
- Exemption from the site planning process and fees; and, expedition of any zoning amendments or requests sought on a case-by-case basis;
- Assistance with collection of residents portion of Ontario Works or ODSP shelter allowance; and,
- Donating or allocating land for the expansion and/or continuation of this program.

Planning and Development Approvals

- Project would be treated the same as any other development proposal and therefore may require planning and/or building permit approvals.
- Not yet received a formal application therefore cannot confirm what the planning and/or building approvals process would entail.
- Should the use be determined to be an Emergency Shelter multiple locations around the City would be permitted.
- Smaller structures would likely not require a Building Permit, but larger structures likely would require a Building Permit.
- Site Plan may be required to confirm appropriate location, orientation of buildings, servicing and grading and drainage requirements.

Our Journey to End Homelessness

By March 2022,
Coordinated Access
Governance, Policies,
Practice

Integrated homeless-
serving system that
connects people to
the right resources at
the right time

Shared accountability
and capacity to
quickly identify and
solve individuals'
experience of
homelessness

Reduce overall
homelessness
annually by 5%

Reduce inflow
by 10%

Less than 15%
return to
homelessness

End chronic
homelessness
by 2025

Coordinated Access is Key to Success In Helping Individuals End Their Experience of Homelessness



Serving People Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

Shared accountability for end each individual's experience of homelessness:

1. Unsheltered (sleeping outside, in vehicle, etc.)
2. Emergency Sheltered
3. Temporarily Sheltered (couch surfing, motel, etc.).

Common Assessment - Every Door is the Right One

Through Common Assessment agencies assess and triage individuals' needs and preferences using VI-SPDAT to connect them with a community of resources.

The By Name List

real-time data helps community partners know every person experiencing homelessness by name (with their consent), understand their unique needs, to then prioritize them for the most appropriate and available housing supports.

Prioritization and Referral to right-match

dedicated support and housing resources as they become available, prioritized to meet an individual or family's depth of need.

Recommendations

- That staff be directed to share the information contained in Report HSC22015 with the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) to inform their planning for a potential ‘tiny cabin’ site in the City of Hamilton;
- That staff be directed to assist HATS in determining potential viable sites for its HATS project, underpinned by a Housing First approach; and,
- That staff be directed to work with Corporate Finance and Administration to determine a potential and appropriate funding source should this project proceed.



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?