

HAMILTON HOME

April 11, 2022

His Worship Fred Eisenberger

Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Subject: Proposed Affordable Housing on the LRT Corridor

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

As you are aware, the City of Hamilton is facing an affordable housing crisis that has been exacerbated by the global pandemic. Tackling this multifaceted challenge is only possible via the collaborative efforts of Hamilton's housing organizations, Indigenous communities, social services organizations, market partners, the federal government, and the City of Hamilton.

Understanding this need for deeper collaboration, we launched the Hamilton is Home Coalition in 2020. Since our launch, the Coalition has grown to include member-organizations across the housing continuum: Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing, Indwell, YWCA Hamilton, Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes, Victoria Park Community Homes, Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes, Habitat for Humanity Hamilton, and City Housing Hamilton.

Hamilton is Home was encouraged by last week's General Issues Committee decision to pass a motion targeting affordable housing along the LRT corridor. The LRT presents a tremendous economic development opportunity for the City while improving transit, creating jobs, attracting business, and building new housing. This opportunity must also include an emphasis on affordable housing which reflects our civic commitments to improving the lives of Hamilton's residents.

As such, we encourage Council to take action:

- 1. Emphasize the importance of designating lands for affordable housing along the LRT corridor to senior levels of government.**
- 2. Request that the Hamilton is Home Coalition engage with Staff to propose a spectrum of affordable home ownership and rental opportunities along the LRT corridor within the next 90 days.**

The City has committed to the following measures to address the City's deep need for more affordable housing. Hamilton is Home is poised to help Hamilton achieve its housing plans:

City of Hamilton (City)	Hamilton is Home Coalition (HiH)
- 300 new affordable rental units per year in City of Hamilton	- HiH Coalition strategy has sites identified to build up to 3x the City's annual target for 3-4 years

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of number of households on the social housing wait list, which increased by 18% from 2015-2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HiH three-year plan will drastically cut Hamilton's social housing backlog and end chronic homelessness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer federal and provincial funding for affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HiH members have extensive experience with federal funding and working closely with CMHC to deliver affordable housing to all residents, especially those of the target populations (ie. Women fleeing violence, Indigenous, LGBTQ2+, etc.) - CMHC is currently working with all HiH members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other ongoing performance measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HiH is working with senior-level Staff to address housing issues and priorities, including leveraging Provincial funding - HiH will act alongside the City to achieve performance goals

We know that safe, accessible, suitable housing can transform peoples' lives in many positive ways. Our three-year plan will effectively empower tens of thousands of households across the City to build stronger communities, healthier families, and greater economic stability that can transcend generations. Our members have proven records, with the capacity and resources to build housing now. With your support, we will help Hamilton achieve affordable housing along the LRT corridor, complementing the significant investments planned by market developers.

We look forward to partnering with the City and presenting actionable strategies for Council to prioritize both affordable rental and ownership housing options along the LRT corridor. My contact details are below for your convenience.

Sincerely,



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 Chair, Hamilton is Home Coalition
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cc: Hamilton City Councillors
 Homelessness Policy & Programs (homelesspolicyprograms@hamilton.ca)