

## **Healthy and Safe Communities Staff Follow-Up on LGBTQ Advisory Committee Citizen Committee Report, Respecting Recommendations from the Community Conversation**

For the LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting May 17, 2022

### **Council Direction**

The Emergency and Community Services Committee at its meeting of November 4, 2021, approved the following: “That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee Citizen Committee Report, respecting Recommendations from the Community Conversation, be received & referred to staff for review & report back to Emergency and Community Services”.

### **Information**

As per Council Direction, staff have completed a preliminary review of the recommendations from the Community Conversation and have included a summary below. A report was brought forward to the Emergency and Community Services Committee at its meeting on May 5, 2022, to notify the Committee that a preliminary review by staff was completed and that the next steps to support this work is to first bring it back to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for discussion. The report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee can be found at: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=320768>

Staff are delegating to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee on this item in order to:

- Collect feedback on the review completed by staff to ensure it appropriately reflects the intentions of the recommendations as staff were not active participants in the Community Conversation;
- Seek clarification on assumptions made within the staff review to better understand the role the City of Hamilton could play in addressing the Community Conversation recommendations;
- Further explore the specific needs of LGBTQ communities within the Community Conversation recommendations;
- Provide an update on work currently underway at the City of Hamilton that is in support of the Community Conversation recommendations;
- Discuss next steps and further opportunities for action for the Community Conversation recommendations and work within the Healthy and Safe Communities Department; and
- Identify opportunities for further discussion between the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and division(s) within the Healthy and Safe Communities Department supporting work related to the Community Conversation recommendations.

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Recommendation from Community Conversation	City of Hamilton Update
Locate, build or otherwise procure a safe space for the direct use and benefit of 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities and the organizations that support them	Motion by the General Issues Committee on November 6, 2021 to create a business case for the development of multi-purpose community hub for equity seeking communities. Work on hold due to redeployment of staff to support COVID-19.
Provide direct and ample funding to programming for a wide variety of organizations that directly support 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities	<p>Direct funding by the City of Hamilton is made available to community organizations through various funding streams. One example is through the Community Enrichment Fund, which is beginning to collect more information from applicants to better understand the communities being served.</p> <p>Through Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, support is being provided by the City to identify and collaborate with community partners to apply to funding opportunities offered by other levels of government (provincial / federal) for initiatives in alignment with the plan's priorities of hate mitigation, violence, mental health and stigma, substance use, housing and access to income. Similar support is available for partnerships with LGBTQ+ serving organizations in Hamilton.</p>
Implement a municipal framework, generated by and accountable to City Council, to take action on the following immediately:	
Put an end to carding and racial profiling	Assumption that carding and racial profiling is in reference to police policies outside scope of City mandate.
Ban the surveillance of community activists	Assumption that surveillance is in reference to police policies outside scope of City mandate.
Support the safe use and safe injection of drugs in the City's shelter spaces	<p>Harm reduction services are provided across shelter system in Hamilton.</p> <p>Assumption that reference to safe use and safe injection of drugs is beyond scope of current harm reduction services offered.</p>
Prioritize a dramatic increase in affordable housing provided or supported by the City of Hamilton	Assumption that recommendation is in reference to an increase in the number of new affordable housing units being built in Hamilton. The City of Hamilton continues to advocate to higher levels of government for funding to support new affordable housing solutions in Hamilton in addition to local investment.

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Recommendation from Community Conversation	City of Hamilton Update
Prioritize a dramatic increase in the stock of RGI housing provided or supported by CityHousing Hamilton and other social housing providers	A series of challenges continue to reduce RGI stock across housing providers in Hamilton. The City of Hamilton continues to advocate to higher levels of government (provincial / federal) to incentivize housing providers to maintain affordability through rent supplements and capital investments for repair and renewal.
Place a city-wide moratorium on evictions for at least another 18 months to allow tenants to continue to adjust and respond to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic	Rental housing falls outside the scope of the City and is under provincial jurisdiction including the ability to place eviction moratoriums related to COVID-19.
Develop and fund a plan to provide targeted social services to members of 2S LGBTQIA+ communities including food, legal support, mental health support and education	2SLGBTQIA+ communities have been identified as key populations within many of the City's existing community strategies. The City will incorporate any work related to the LGBTQ Community Conversation recommendations into Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan moving forward.
Create a Strategic Manager Position that is responsive to the needs of 2S LGBTQIA+ communities and is connected to social service supports	The Manager, Human Service Integration, Strategy and Continuous Improvement in the General Manager's Office in Healthy and Safe Communities has been assigned to act as a department liaison to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee to create stronger connections between the Advisory Committee and work happening within the Healthy and Safe Communities Department. This Manager also oversees the work of Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.
Respond to the recommendations outlined in Scott Bergman's report entitled "Pride in Hamilton" commissioned by the Hamilton Police Services Board	As part of Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, staff have started a review of the "Pride in Hamilton" report and will work to identify opportunities for action in collaboration with the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and other LGBTQ+ serving community partners.