

**CITY OF HAMILTON
MOTION**

Emergency and Community Services: August 11, 2022

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Funding for the Hamilton Community Benefits Network Study of Affordable Housing along the Light Rail Transit Corridor

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened social and economic disparities among equity seeking groups;

WHEREAS, the pandemic has exacerbated the housing crisis among Ward 3 residents;

WHEREAS, in August, 2011 the City of Hamilton, published a report titled "Affordable Housing in Hamilton's B-Line Corridor" with the aim to explore tools that may be most useful for building and preserving affordability in the housing market around a new rapid transit line;

WHEREAS, on April 7th, 2022, the Hamilton City Council directed staff to establish a strategic land acquisition plan along the Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT) corridor to allow for affordable housing, social housing and other community amenities;

WHEREAS, according to the City of Hamilton Ward Profiles, in Ward 3 the average household income is \$33,506 lower than Hamilton's average; 53% of the residents are renters, and 55% of those who rent spend more than 30% of their income on shelter costs;

WHEREAS, according to CMHC the current rental rates in Ward 3 have increased by 1.6% since 2011 and housing prices continue to soar;

WHEREAS, current housing market trends have resulted in ever-increasing cost of housing without income rates increasing to keep pace, resulting in a loss of housing options that are affordable to many Hamiltonians;

WHEREAS, the majority of the property acquisition for the Hamilton Light Rail project has and will take place in Ward 3; and,

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Community Benefits Network, the Social Planning and Council of Hamilton, and the author of the aforementioned 2011 study Sam Nabi will conduct a new study with the most current available data to help inform solutions which preserve existing affordable housing, and maximize new affordable housing on or near the LRT Corridor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$6000 be allocated from the Ward 3 Cellular Tower & Ward-Specific Non-Property Tax Revenues Account Number 3301609603 to the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton as the fiscal sponsor for the implementation of the Hamilton Community Benefits Network study of affordable housing along the Light Rail Transit (LRT) corridor; and
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents in relation to funding for the Hamilton Community Benefits Network study of affordable housing along the Light Rail Transit (LRT) corridor, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.