



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 22-013

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillors B. Clark (Chair), N. Nann and E. Pauls,

Regrets: Councillor T. Jackson – City Business, Councillors S. Merulla and T. Whitehead – Personal

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 22-013 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Seniors Advisory Committee - Citizen Committee Report respecting Extreme Heat Mitigation (Item 10.1)

WHEREAS, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has issued a statement (https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/ohrc-statement-human-rights-extreme-heat-waves-and-air-conditioning) on human rights, extreme heat waves and air conditioning as of August 19, 2022 stating that while under the *Residential Tenancy Act, 2006* (RTA), tenants have access to vital services such as heat, hot and cold water, electricity and fuel, it does not include air conditioning;

WHEREAS, the OHRC has stated this current RTA puts at risk many Ontarians, such as people with disabilities, older people and low income, youngsters under the age of 4, Indigenous, Black and racialized communities from protection from extreme heat. People with disabilities, older adults and children under the age of 4 years are at most risk for heat illness and death. This leaves many Ontarians without protection from extreme heat;

WHEREAS, the OHRC calls on the provincial government to include air conditioning as a vital service under RTA regulations and to establish a provincial maximum temperature to ensure that vulnerable Code-protected tenants are protected against threat of eviction for using safely installed cooling units;

WHEREAS, at the Federal level, Canada has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 under the Paris Agreement and to cut emissions of methane by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030 through the Global Methane Pledge;

WHEREAS, there is a growing trend across Canada to ban heat from fossil fuels with some cities setting target dates to ban fossil fuel use to reach zero-emissions (Vancouver 2025) as well as some provinces already making it illegal to replace existing furnaces with fossil burning fuels to reach near-zero emissions and drastically cut methane (Quebec);

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton committed to plans for transforming buildings to low carbon emitting and has prioritized a 13 Climate Change Impact Adaption Plan (<https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/climate-change-action>), one being to help vulnerable populations from experiencing climate related risks of extreme heat and cold;

WHEREAS, heating residences with fossil fuels create 85% of Greenhouse Gas emissions mainly from natural gas that is itself 95% methane gas;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has already officially approved to seek a grant to design a Home Efficiency Retrofit Opportunity (HERO) Program (<https://www.environmenthamilton.org/hamiltonhero>) for Hamilton that will allow homeowners to get a low-interest loan to make quality of life and energy conservation improvements to their homes that they would not otherwise be able to afford; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has already become the owner of the world's largest residential building retrofitted to Passive House standards (https://passivehouse-international.org/index.php?page_id=150). The Ken Soble CityHousing Hamilton building has achieved 94% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and 91% reduction in heating energy demand to support resident health and climate resilience. This building uses heat pumps to heat and cool apartment units. CityHousing Hamilton is a true model for addressing extreme heat and housing crises.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Seniors Advisory Committee requests that the City of Hamilton advocate to the Government of Ontario to change the building code to make heat pumps (heat and cooling units) and electrification mandatory in all new building and retrofit housing; and
- (b) That the City of Hamilton expand the extreme heat interventions to other CityHousing Hamilton facilities and to low income rental units in the near future as per those already put in place by Public Health's Extreme Heat Working Group in 181 Jackson Street West, 200 Jackson Street West, 191 Main Street West and 95 Hess Street South.

2. Support for the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) to Receive Increased and Sustainable Provincial Funding (Item 11.1)

WHEREAS, since 1975, the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) (SACHA) has provided advocacy and direct support for survivors of recent or historical sexual violence;

WHEREAS, the number of survivors needing access to crisis counselling and long-term counselling programs continues to increase year upon year;

WHEREAS, SACHA has provided abuse prevention education available for all residents in the City of Hamilton including school boards, universities, public institutions, not-for profit organizations, unions, and community groups, with increasing demands for workshops;

WHEREAS, ongoing underfunding of SACHA has reduced the number of resources available to provide these services due to highly specialized skill requirements that are unmatched by low wages and inadequate benefits relative to other mental health funded positions;

WHEREAS the current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a drastic increase in the number of people in the community requiring the services of SACHA; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (June 22, 2022), the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge (Dec 22, 2021; motion 21-GC-317), and the City of Kingston (August 9, 2022) have all passed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fulfill the 30% increase commitment announced in 2018 that has not been budgeted to date;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, advocate to the provincial government to increase the base funding for the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton Area) (SACHA) by 30% to address current needs and plan for increases to enable sustainability, by writing a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, with copies to Members of Provincial Parliament representing Hamilton ridings and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

3. Support for Ministry-Funded Essential Supports and Services Organizations in Hamilton (Added Item 13.1)

That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, and Housing Division staff be directed to work with organizations in Hamilton that provide essential supports and services that receive Violence Against Women funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Good Shepherd, Interval House, Mission Services and the Native Women's Centre) to meet with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Children, Community and Social Services in

order to advocate to the Ministry to increase funding supports for these organizations.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised the following changes to the agenda:

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 6.1 Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area), respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA) – for today’s meeting

6.1(d) Miranda Jurilj - **WITHDRAWN**

6.1(f) Miriam Sager

The agenda for the September 22, 2022 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

The Minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee, were approved, as presented.

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

The correspondence from David Steckham, respecting his resignation from the Hamilton Veterans Committee, was received.

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

The following Delegation Requests, were approved, for today’s meeting:

- (a) Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) (SACHA), Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA):

1. Jessica Bonilla/Dampthey (Item 6.1(a))

2. Sabreina Dahab (Item 6.1(b))
3. Maria Felix Miller (Item 6.1(c))
4. Sarah Adjekum (Item 6.1(e))
5. Miriam Sager (Added Item 6.1(f))

(f) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 7)

The following Advisory Committee Minutes, were received:

(a) Hamilton Veterans Committee (Item 7.1(a))

1. April 27, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(a))
2. May 25, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(b))
3. June 29, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(c))
4. July 27, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(d))
5. September 28, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(e))
6. October 26, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(f))
7. November 30, 2021 (Item 7.1(a)(g))
8. February 22, 2022 (Item 7.1(a)(h))
9. March 29, 2022 (Item 7.1(a)(i))
10. April 26, 2022 (Item 7.1(a)(j))
11. May 31, 2022 (Item 7.1(a)(k))

(b) Seniors Advisory Committee (Item 7.1(b))

1. June 3, 2022 (Item 7.1(b)(a))

(g) PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 9)

- (i) Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) (SACHA), Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA) (Added Item 9.1)**

1. Jessica Bonilla-Dampley (Added Item 9.1 (a))

Jessica Bonilla-Dampley addressed Committee respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA).

2. Sabreina Dahab – Video Delegation (Added Item 9.1 (b))

Sabreina Dahab addressed Committee by pre-recorded video, respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA).

3. Maria Felix Miller (Added Item 9.1 (c))

Maria Felix Miller addressed Committee respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA).

4. Sarah Adjekum (Added Item 9.1 (d))

Sarah Adjekum addressed Committee respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA).

5. Miriam Sager (Added Item 9.1 (e))

Miriam Sager addressed Committee respecting Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA).

(Nann/Pauls)

The following Delegations, were received, and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1, Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) (SACHA), Asking for City of Hamilton to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding to local Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA):

1. Jessica Bonilla-Dampley (Added Item 9.1(a))
2. Sabreina Dahab (Added Item 9.1(b))
3. Maria Felix Miller (Added Item 9.1(c))
4. Sarah Adjekum (Added Item 9.1(d))

5. Miriam Sager (Added Item 9.1(e))

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

There being no further business, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Clark
Chair, Emergency and Community Services
Committee

Tamara Bates
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk