



350 King Street East, Suite 104
Hamilton, ON L8N 3Y3

Office (905) 522-1148 | Fax (905) 522-9124
Email sprc@sprc.hamilton.on.ca | Website sprc.hamilton.on.ca

Celebrating more than 40 years of social development in Hamilton

January 17, 2023

City of Hamilton
Emergency and Community Services Committee
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Emergency and Community Services Committee Members,

The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (SPRC) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization with a mission to provide relevant community social research and programs. Our services focus on four key areas: housing and homelessness, equity and inclusion, the healthy development of children and families, and poverty reduction. We are proud to serve on the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) Steering Committee and to act as fiduciary sponsor for this innovative non-profit organization.

Housing insecurity and homelessness are among the City's most pressing issues. We have a shelter system that is stretched beyond its means in terms of human and financial resources, with a growing acuity of mental and physical health challenges. HATS is designed to meet the need of persons who are unable to access shelters. These individuals currently seek shelter on the streets or in parks and in doing so, are under the constant threat of abuse, violence, theft, and involuntary relocation. By building a community of residents who have agency over their own home unit and wrap around supports to help transition individuals to longer term housing options, HATS offers a different model that has worked effectively in a number of other cities both inside and outside of Canada.

What has been accomplished to date by HATS is a testament to the support for this project in our community. Front line community organizations such as the Hamilton Regional Indian Center, Wesley, and the Hub have committed to provide wrap around services. Police Services and the Fire Department have pledged support, and there is a strong network of volunteers and donors committed to providing a safe community for those without adequate shelter.

The only remaining support needed for this project to be successful is the will and financial commitment of the City. HATS requests a financial commitment of \$100,000.00 per year to

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United Way Funded Agency



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initiate and sustain this project over the next three years. This represents roughly one third of all budgeted expenses. We hope the City will join community members and provide the necessary support and collaborative partnership to be part of a solution which has the potential to be lifesaving and for those who are house-less in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Martin", is positioned above the typed name.

Kim Martin, M.B.A., B.S.W., PMP
Executive Director

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