



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 23-002

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillors B. Clark (Chair), C. Kroetsch, T. Hwang, N. Nann and A. Wilson

Regrets: Councillors T. Jackson and M. Wilson— Personal

THE EMERGENCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 23-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Request to Increase Current Ontario Works Rates (Item 7.1 and Added Item 7.2)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton 2022 Nutritious Food Basket Report shows that healthy eating is unaffordable for many Hamiltonians and their families and that healthy eating is deeply unaffordable for Hamiltonians receiving Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Funding.

WHEREAS, Food insecurity is a serious public health problem as individuals' health and well-being are closely linked to their household food security. Because of its harmful effects on health, household food insecurity causes a large burden on the health care system

WHEREAS, Among Ontarians who receive social assistance, approximately two-thirds (67.2%) reported food insecurity in 2021

WHEREAS, Ontario Works continues to operate with 2018 funding levels from the Province. Savings associated with the implementation of EST, EDM and other Social Assistance reforms have been consumed by inflationary pressures since these changes were implemented.

WHEREAS, Ontario Works Hamilton has not experienced any savings from Centralized Intake, and in fact the decreased ratio of support from the intended

50/50 cost share creates a 1.5M pressure for Ontario Works as shared with Council during the 2023 budget process.

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton continues to communicate that it is important that provincial funding contributions keep pace with municipal requirements until the full impact of Social Assistance Reform is communicated, implemented, and understood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) The Director of Government Relations & Community Engagement and the Director of Ontario Works to draft a letter of support on behalf of the City of Hamilton emphasizing the rising cost of food and the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket Report requesting an increase to current Ontario Works and Ontario Disabilities Support Program rates to the Province of Ontario;
- (b) That the Director of Government Relations & Community Engagement and the Director of Ontario Works include local Members of Provincial Parliament on this letter for their reference and review; and
- (c) That the Director of Government Relations & Community Engagement and the Director of Ontario Works look to identify other advocacy opportunities to join other social service agencies or municipalities in advocating for rate increases to social assistance

2. Consent Items (Item 9.1 to 9.5 (i) to (vi))

That the following Consent Items be received:

- (a) Urban Indigenous Strategy and Indigenous Relations Updates (HSC21001(a)) (City Wide) (Item 9.1)
- (b) Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (HSC22035(a)) (City-Wide) (Item 9.2)
- (c) Ontario Works and the Impacts of Provincial Social Assistance Reform (HSC23010) (City Wide) (Item 9.3)
- (d) Update on Health Partnerships to Pursue Increase to Permanent Supportive Housing Options (HSC23013) (City Wide) (Item 9.4)
- (e) Advisory Committee Minutes (Item 9.5)
 - (i) Seniors Advisory Committee - September 9, 2022 (Item 9.5(a))
 - (ii) Seniors Advisory Committee - December 2, 2022 (Item 9.5(b))
 - (iii) Hamilton Veterans Committee - September 27, 2022 (Item 9.5(c))

- (iv) Hamilton Veterans Committee - October 25, 2022 (Item 9.5(d))
- (v) LGBTQ Advisory Committee - July 19, 2022 (Item 9.5(e))
- (vi) LGBTQ Advisory Committee - November 22, 2022 (Item 9.5(f))
- (vii) LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting Notes - December 20, 2022 (Item 9.5(g))

3. Child Care Sector Advocacy through Association of Municipalities of Ontario (Item 9.2)

That the City of Hamilton advocate to the Provincial Government through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to resolve workforce issues such as adequate wages, benefits, and staff development in the childcare sector so that new programs under Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care can be opened locally.

4. Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Proposal - REVISED (HSC22015(a))(City Wide) (Deferred from the January 19, 2023 meeting) (Item 10.1)

That REVISED Report HSC22015(a) respecting a Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Proposal be referred back to staff to work with the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters on the establishment of an operational plan.

5. Income and Asset Limits for Rent Geared to Income Assistance (HSC23004) (City Wide) (Item 10.2)

That the income and asset limits for Rent Geared to Income assistance (RGI) eligibility and associated exclusions and conditions contained in Appendix "A" to Emergency and Community Services Report 23-002, be approved.

6. Updates to the Emergency Plan (HSC22001(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.3)

That the amending by-law attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC22001(a) which amends the City of Hamilton Emergency Management Program By-law (By-law 22-005), and which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be enacted and effective immediately.

7. Citizen Committee Report from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee entitled, In Response to the passing of Redeemer University LGBTQIA+ student Bekett Noble (Item 10.4)

- (b) That statements issued by community groups on the passing Bekett Noble including, but not limited to those issued by, Hamilton Trans Health Coalition, The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and the Queer Justice

Project, and the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton be forwarded to the Clerk's Office for inclusion on an upcoming Council Agenda.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised the following changes to the agenda:

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 6.3 Judith Bishop, Not-For-Profit Childcare Boards Collaborative, in Support of Item 9.2, Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (HSC22035(a)) (City-Wide) (for today's meeting)
- 6.4 Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (for today's meeting)

13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Amendments to the Outstanding Business List

(a) Items to be Removed:

- (f) 20-D: City of Hamilton Support for the Hamilton is Home Coalition of Affordable Housing Developers E&CS 20-005, Item 3 (c)
Removed from OBL as Staff now attend and support Hamilton Coalition of Affordable Housing Developers meetings
- (g) 21-M: Reaching Home: Canada's Homeless Strategy Community Homelessness Report 2019-2020, 2020-2021 (HSC21044) (City Wide)
ECS 21-013, Item 4
Addressed in Item 9.4 of this Agenda, Update on Health Partnerships to Pursue Increase to Permanent Supportive Housing Options (HSC23013) (City Wide)

(b) Item with New Due Date or Status Update

- (a) 17-B: Poverty Reduction Investment Plan (CES16043(a))
GIC 17-019, Item 1 (g) & (h)
New Due Date: April 2023
- (b) 22-C: Shelter System Complaint Resolution Process

ECS 22-005, Item 3
New Due Date: March 23, 2023

- (c) 23-C: Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012) (City Wide)
ECS 23-001, 19/01/23, Item 7
New Due Date: August 2023

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

14.1 Closed Session Minutes – January 19, 2023

CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF ITEMS

That Elizabeth McGuire's delegation respecting the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, be moved up on the agenda to speak following Dr. Sally Palmer's delegation.

The agenda for the February 16, 2023 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None.

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

(i) January 19, 2023 (Item 4.1)

The Minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee, be approved, as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

The following Delegation Requests, were approved, as presented:

- (i) Joanne Santucci, Hamilton Food Share, respecting the Status of Hamilton's Emergency Food System (for a future meeting) (Item 6.1)
- (ii) Ingrid Waisgluss, respecting Recreational Facilities (for a future meeting) (Item 6.2)
- (iii) Judith Bishop, Not-For-Profit Childcare Boards Collaborative, in Support of Item 9.2, Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (HSC22035(a)) (City-Wide) (for today's meeting) (Added Item 6.3)

- (iv) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (for today's meeting) (Added Item 6.4)

(e) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)

- (i) Dr. Sally Palmer, Hamilton Social Work Action Committee addressed the Committee respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (Item 7.1)
- (ii) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, addressed the Committee respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (Added Item 7.2)
- (iii) Kevin Gonci, Golden Horseshoe Track & Field Council, addressed the Committee respecting the 2023 ParticipACTION Community Challenge (Item 7.3)
- (iv) Judith Bishop and Don Jaffray, Not-For-Profit Childcare Boards Collaborative, addressed the Committee in Support of Item 9.2, Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (HSC22035(a)) (City-Wide) (Added Item 7.4)

The following Delegations were received:

- (a) Dr. Sally Palmer, Hamilton Social Work Action Committee respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (Item 7.1)
- (b) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Impacts of the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket and Social Assistance Rates (Added Item 7.2)
- (c) Kevin Gonci, Golden Horseshoe Track & Field Council, respecting the 2023 ParticipACTION Community Challenge (Item 7.3)
- (d) Judith Bishop and Don Jaffray, Not-For-Profit Childcare Boards Collaborative, in Support of Item 9.2, Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (HSC22035(a)) (City-Wide) (Added Item 7.4)

For further disposition on Items (a) and (b), refer to Item 1

For further disposition on Item (d), refer to Item 3

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 11)

- (i) **Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Proposal - REVISED (HSC22015(a))(City Wide) (Item 10.1)**

- (a) That respecting the request for a City of Hamilton contribution to the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) Council approve an immediate contribution of \$100 K for the period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 year to be funded from the projected 2022 Housing Services Division surplus or the Tax Stabilization Reserve #110046, if the division surplus is not realized;
 - (i) That funding as approved in recommendation (a) be based on the following conditions:
 - (1) That staff be directed to work with HATS to identify and outline standards around performance metrics and outcomes as a condition of funding including, but not limited to: eligibility and entry criteria, gender-specific considerations including specific supports for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary individuals, identification of formalized community partnerships with health- and social service sectors, equity and inclusion, and demonstrated exits into safe permanent housing; and agreed upon by HATS for first year of operations;
 - (2) Confirmation that matching funds have been received or committed to; and,
 - (3) That a detailed exit strategy has been created and agreed to should HATS not be able to ensure site safety and adequate operational funding.
- (b) That consideration of a contribution up to a maximum of \$100 K annually to HATS toward the establishment and operation of temporary tiny cabins for the 2-year period of April 2023 to December 2024, be referred to the 2023 Council Operating budget deliberations to be funded from the Operating Levy over the next 2 years:
 - (i) That staff be directed to work with HATS to identify and outline standards around performance metrics and outcomes as a condition of funding including, but not limited to: eligibility and entry criteria, gender-specific considerations including specific supports for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary individuals, identification of formalized community partnerships with health- and social service sectors, equity and inclusion, and demonstrated exits into safe permanent housing;

- (ii) That funding as approved in recommendation (b) be cash flowed in 6 month increments upon the following conditions:
 - (1) Confirmation that performance metrics have been achieved as outlined in recommendation (b)(i);
 - (2) Confirmation that matching funds have been received or committed to; and,
 - (3) That a detailed exit strategy has been created and agreed to should HATS not be able to ensure site safety and adequate operational funding.
- (c) That staff be directed to evaluate and assess program outcomes and efficacy; and report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee at the 6 and 12-month marks;
- (d) In the event that the initial proposed site for HATS at 647 Barton St. East is at any point deemed not viable to proceed, that staff be directed to return to Council with a report identifying how these funds may be redirected in alignment with Council approved strategies such as the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and Coming Together to End Homelessness: Hamilton's System Planning Framework;
- (e) That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or their designate be directed and authorized, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to enter into, execute and administer all agreements and documents necessary to implement the grant outlined above on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or their designate and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor

The recommendations in REVISED Report HSC22015(a)) respecting a Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Proposal were **amended** by deleting them in their entirety and replacing them with the following:

That REVISED Report HSC22015(a) respecting a Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Proposal be referred back to staff to work with the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters on the establishment of an operational plan.

- ~~(b) That respecting the request for a City of Hamilton contribution to the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) Council approve an immediate contribution of \$100 K for the period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 year to be funded from the projected 2022 Housing Services Division surplus or the Tax Stabilization Reserve #110046, if the division surplus is not realized;~~

~~(ii) — That funding as approved in recommendation (a) be based on the following conditions:~~

~~(4) — That staff be directed to work with HATS to identify and outline standards around performance metrics and outcomes as a condition of funding including, but not limited to: eligibility and entry criteria, gender-specific considerations including specific supports for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary individuals, identification of formalized community partnerships with health and social service sectors, equity and inclusion, and demonstrated exits into safe permanent housing; and agreed upon by HATS for first year of operations;~~

~~(5) — Confirmation that matching funds have been received or committed to; and,~~

~~(6) — That a detailed exit strategy has been created and agreed to should HATS not be able to ensure site safety and adequate operational funding.~~

~~(b) — That consideration of a contribution up to a maximum of \$100 K annually to HATS toward the establishment and operation of temporary tiny cabins for the 2-year period of April 2023 to December 2024, be referred to the 2023 Council Operating budget deliberations to be funded from the Operating Levy over the next 2 years:~~

~~(i) — That staff be directed to work with HATS to identify and outline standards around performance metrics and outcomes as a condition of funding including, but not limited to: eligibility and entry criteria, gender-specific considerations including specific supports for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary individuals, identification of formalized community partnerships with health and social service sectors, equity and inclusion, and demonstrated exits into safe permanent housing;~~

~~(ii) — That funding as approved in recommendation (b) be cash flowed in 6 month increments upon the following conditions:~~

~~(4) — Confirmation that performance metrics have been achieved as outlined in recommendation (b)(i);~~

~~(5) — Confirmation that matching funds have been received or committed to; and,~~

- ~~(6) — That a detailed exit strategy has been created and agreed to should HATS not be able to ensure site safety and adequate operational funding.~~
- ~~(c) — That staff be directed to evaluate and assess program outcomes and efficacy; and report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee at the 6 and 12-month marks;~~
- ~~(d) — In the event that the initial proposed site for HATS at 647 Barton St. East is at any point deemed not viable to proceed, that staff be directed to return to Council with a report identifying how these funds may be redirected in alignment with Council approved strategies such as the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and Coming Together to End Homelessness: Hamilton's System Planning Framework;~~
- ~~(e) — That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or their designate be directed and authorized, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to enter into, execute and administer all agreements and documents necessary to implement the grant outlined above on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or their designate and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor~~

For further disposition of this item, refer to Item 4

(ii) Citizen Committee Report from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee entitled, In Response to the passing of Redeemer University LGBTQIA+ student Bekett Noble (Item 10.4)

- (a) That, going forward the City of examine any contractual agreement it holds with Redeemer University, including the permanent funding of institutions that benefit Redeemer University, focusing on adherence to the Protocol for Gender Identity and Gender Expression; Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Persons; and
- (b) That statements issued by community groups on the passing Bekett Noble including, but not limited to those issued by, Hamilton Trans Health Coalition, The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and the Queer Justice Project, and the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton be forwarded to the Clerk's Office for inclusion on an upcoming Council Agenda.

Sub-section (a) of the Citizen Committee Report from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee entitled, In Response to the passing of Redeemer University LGBTQIA+ student Bekett Noble, was referred to the Senior

Leadership Team and Legal Services to ensure that City protocols are being followed and that the recommendation can be enabled, with a report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee:

- (a) That, going forward the City of examine any contractual agreement it holds with Redeemer University, including the permanent funding of institutions that benefit Redeemer University, focusing on adherence to the Protocol for Gender Identity and Gender Expression; Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Persons; and

For further disposition refer to Item 7

(h) GENERAL ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

(i) Amendments to the Outstanding Business List (Item 13.1)

1. Items Removed:

- (aa) 19-E: Allocation Policy for Sport Fields, Diamonds and Arenas
E&CS 19-002, Item 2
Addressed in Reviews conducted up to April 1, 2020, as per recommendations
- (bb) 20-F: 2020 Arena Opening Plan E&CS 20-010, Item 3
Addressed issue with a report to the 2021 Operating Budget
- (cc) 20-H: Homelessness in Hamilton E&CS 20-010 Item (f)(iii)
Addressed at ECS 21-013, December 9, 2021 in Item 8.2, Report HSC20020(d)
- (dd) 21-L: National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government
Addressed in ECS 22-009, June 2, 2022, Item 10.1, Report hSC22035
- (ee) 17-A: Progress of the Implementation of Our Future Hamilton (CM15001(b))/(CES15010(b))
Addressed at an annual presentation to the General Issues Committee
- (ff) 20-D: City of Hamilton Support for the Hamilton is Home Coalition of Affordable Housing Developers
E&CS 20-005, Item 3 (c)

Removed from OBL as Staff now attend and support Hamilton Coalition of Affordable Housing Developers meetings

- (gg) 21-M: Reaching Home: Canada's Homeless Strategy Community Homelessness Report 2019-2020, 2020-2021 (HSC21044) (City Wide)
ECS 21-013, Item 4
Addressed in Item 9.4 of this Agenda, Update on Health Partnerships to Pursue Increase to Permanent Supportive Housing Options (HSC23013) (City Wide)

2. Item with New Due Date or Status Update:

- (aa) 17-B: Poverty Reduction Investment Plan (CES16043(a))
GIC 17-019, Item 1 (g) & (h)
New Due Date: April 2023
- (bb) 22-C: Shelter System Complaint Resolution Process
ECS 22-005, Item 3
New Due Date: March 23, 2023
- (cc) 23-C: Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012) (City Wide)
ECS 23-001, 19/01/23, Item 7
New Due Date: August 2023

(ii) Healthy and Safe Communities Support of Tenants at 1083 Main Street East Update (Added Item 13.2)

Housing Services Staff provided information respecting options for tenants at 1083 Main Street East to connect with Housing Support Workers.

The Update respecting Healthy and Safe Communities Support of Tenants at 1083 Main Street East, be received.

(i) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)

(i) Closed Session Minutes – January 19, 2023

The Closed Session Minutes of January 19, 2023, were approved, as presented.

(j) ADJOURNMENT (Item 16)

There being no further business, the Emergency and Community Services Committee adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Councillor B. Clark
Chair, Emergency and Community Services
Committee

Summary of local Income Limits, Asset Limits, Exclusions and Conditions for Rent Geared to Income assistance (RGI) eligibility in the City of Hamilton

Income Limit

The income limit for RGI eligibility in the City of Hamilton shall be aligned to the Household Income Limits as specified in the *Housing Services Act, 2001* O. Reg. 370.11 s.2 (1) which are as follows:

Measure	Service Manager	2023				
		Bachelor unit (\$)	1-bedroom unit (\$)	2-bedroom unit (\$)	3-bedroom unit (\$)	4-bedroom unit or larger (\$)
Household Income Limits	City of Hamilton	\$34,000	\$44,000	\$52,000	\$59,500	\$74,500

Asset Limit

The asset limit for RGI eligibility in the City of Hamilton, for new applicants shall be \$50,000 for a single applicant and \$100,000 for applicant households with more than one member.

The asset limit for RGI eligibility in the City of Hamilton shall be \$150,000 for existing recipients of RGI assistance.

Extenuating Circumstances

Victims of family violence shall constitute an extenuating circumstance and may be allowed additional time, at the discretion of the administrator, to divest themselves of assets that may be more than the local limits.

That authority be delegated to the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department, or their designate, to approve extenuating circumstances for other households at their discretion.

Exclusions Beyond Provincial Requirements

The value of assets that are Locked-in Retirement Accounts and Life Income Funds shall be excluded when determining initial or ongoing eligibility for RGI.

That authority be delegated to the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department, or their designate, to include additional categories of investment as exclusions at her discretion.