



Hamilton

Proposed Encampment Protocol
May 17, 2023

Overview

- Background
- Council Direction
- What We Heard
- Proposed Encampment Protocol
- Comparison of Current and Proposed Approach
- Staff recommendations

Background

- Since July 2020, the City of Hamilton has taken a variety of approaches to encampments:
 - Enforcement-led approach with Municipal Law Enforcement as the primary point of contact.
 - Housing first approach with Housing Focused Street Outreach as the primary point of contact.

Council Direction

In an amendment of sub-section (a) at the February 8th, General Issues Committee discussion of ‘Encampment Pilot Evaluation’ (HSC20038(e)/PED21188(b)), a Motion was introduced providing the following direction to HSD staff:

- a. That staff be directed to convene a minimum of 2 meetings to discuss the encampment protocol with members of the Indigenous community and the following organizations: (i) YWCA and other drop-in providers; (ii) HAMSMArT; (iii) Keeping Six; and (iv) Other stakeholders who serve the housing and health needs of those living encamped;

Council Direction

In an amendment of sub-section (a) at the February 8th, General Issues Committee discussion of ‘Encampment Pilot Evaluation’ (HSC20038(e)/PED21188(b)), a Motion was introduced providing the following direction to HSD staff:

- b. That these meetings be held to develop a new encampment protocol rooted in an approach that upholds the human rights of residents living encamped and reflects the concerns shared by the delegates who presented on January 18, 2023, with a report back no later than April 20, 2023, with recommendations to the General Issues Committees.

What We Heard

- Sanctioned Sites
- Tent Limits
- Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)
- Moving people as a last resort
- Supports and Services

Proposed Encampment Protocol

- Shared Principles
- Alignment to Housing Resources and Supports
- Process for Designating Encampment as Abandoned
- Sanctioned Encampments

Current and Proposed Approaches

Processes	Current Approach	Proposed Approach
Housing-led approach	Yes	Yes
Address serious health & safety concerns	Yes	Yes
Maximum Personal Space Allotment(s)	No	Yes
A five (5) tent limit	No	Yes
Distance between each encampment cluster	No	Yes

Current and Proposed Approaches

Prohibited Areas	Current Approach	Proposed Approach
Highways, Pathways, Bridges, Sidewalks, Fire routes, Accessibility entrances, etc.	Yes	Yes
Private Property Line	No	Yes
Recreational Assets	No	Yes
School or children daycare centre	No	Yes
Sites with Environmental and/or Heritage designation	No	Yes

Staff Recommendations

1. That Council adopt the Proposed Encampment Protocol attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC20038(f)/PED21188(c) and that staff be directed to implement the Proposed Encampment Protocol upon Council ratification on May 24th, 2023.
2. That the staff and budget resources for the Coordination Response Team previously approved through Report HSC20038(e)/PED21188(b) be allocated to the implementation of the Proposed Encampment Protocol attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC20038(f)/PED21188(c)

Staff Recommendations

3. That, following Council ratification, staff be directed to make the Proposed Encampment Protocol attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC20038(f)/PED21188(c) available for public comment, and that staff monitor the implementation of the protocol, and that staff report back to Council with a final recommended protocol at the General Issues Committee on August 2023.

Staff Recommendations

4. That staff be directed to conduct a scan of jurisdictions that currently operate sanctioned encampments and further research/consultation as required and bring back options regarding operating models, parameters and criteria for site identification and potential sites with the goal of incorporating sanctioned sites into the new encampment protocol once site(s) and operating model are approved by Council.
5. That staff be directed to work with stakeholders to address washrooms, showers, and access to drinking water, as well as integration of peer and Indigenous supports into encampment response, and report back to Council with recommendations and required resourcing.

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