

August 11, 2023

- Attn: General Issues Committee and Members of Hamilton City Council C/o <u>clerk@hamilton.ca</u>
- Cc.: Cameron Kroetsch, City Councillor (Ward 2) Cameron.kroetsch@hamilton.ca ward2@hamilton.ca
- Re: General Issues Committee Meeting (Monday August 14, 2023) Item 8.2 Public Feedback and Recommendation for an Encampment Protocol and Sanctioned Sites (HSC20036(g)) (City Wide)

Tiny Shelter Proposal for the parking area located on Strachan Street East (Between James St. North and Hughson St. North)

I am writing on behalf of the Northend Neighbourhood Association (NENA) regarding the current Tiny Shelters being proposed along Strachan Street East between Hughson Steet North and James Street North at the gateway to the North End neighbourhood.

The current proposal being presented and discussed has involved NO consultation with the neighbourhood's residents nor our Neighbourhood Association. Residents only recently learned of the proposed recommendation to construct 25 tiny shelters along the Strachan Street Pedestrian Path, through local media outlets on August 9th, 2023.

Since learning of this proposal, many residents in the surrounding area have expressed concerns regarding safety, sanitary conditions, upkeep, and the general design for this shelter community. Losing a space where children play, learn to ride bikes and where families gather would be difficult without further information and open discussion.

In addition, there has also been concern expressed that the North End should not be the only location for Tiny Shelters under the proposed pilot project, as there are numerous other site options across the city that would meet the criteria of the proposed Encampment Protocol, while providing necessary resources to more people.

We understand that many factors have led to an increase in encampments including a lack of affordable housing, mental health, substance-abuse, etc.. Many in our community are facing these challenges and are in need of solutions that provide permanent homes for quality of life.

Before a final decision is made NENA requests that a public meeting occur to hear residents' concerns and have these issues addressed; as residents have received no information to date.

Regards,

Andreilickinson.

Andrew Robinson NENA - President <u>nen.president@gmail.com</u>