

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council: February 28, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR A. WILSON.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Amendment to Item 1 of the Emergency and Community Services Report 23-011, respecting the Annual Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012(a)) (City Wide)

WHEREAS, at its meeting of September 13, 2023, City Council approved Item 1 of Emergency and Community Services Committee Report 23-011, thereby authorizing the Winter Response Strategy from December 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 at an approximate cost of \$1,499,588 to be funded by the Tax Stabilization Reserve #110046;

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2023, the Government of Canada, in recognition that the winter weather presents additional risks to people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered areas and outdoors, notified Housing Services Division staff that Infrastructure Canada would be providing one-time top-up funding in the amount of \$1,496,028, to support increased demand for services and supports during winter 2023-2024, to be provided as an amendment to the funding agreement between Canada and the City for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy; and

WHEREAS, all winter response strategy programs were evaluated and deemed eligible services and activities under the program guidelines of Reaching Home;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Item 1(a) of the Emergency and Community Services Report 23-011, respecting the Annual Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012(a)) (City Wide), be **amended**, to read as follows:

1. Annual Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

- (a) That Council approve, and staff be authorized to implement an immediate Winter Response Strategy, from December 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 to support vulnerable individuals within the homelessness serving systems as follows for an approximate cost of \$1,499,588 ***and to be funded by the Tax Stabilization Reserve #110046: funded first by Reaching Homes funding of \$1,496,028, followed by departmental surplus, and lastly the Tax Stabilization Reserve:***

Main Motion, **As Amended**, to read as follows:

1. Annual Winter Response Strategy (HSC23012(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

- (a) That Council approve, and staff be authorized to implement an immediate Winter Response Strategy, from December 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 to support vulnerable individuals within the homelessness serving systems as follows for an approximate cost of \$1,499,588, ***funded first by Reaching Homes funding of \$1,496,028, followed by departmental surplus, and lastly the Tax Stabilization Reserve:***
 - (i) One hundred overnight drop-in spaces through a Call for Application that would function as additional low-barrier overnight winter warming spaces at an approximate cost of \$584,154.
 - (ii) The operation of one overnight warming bus through Hamilton Transit, at an approximate cost of \$217,550, which includes approximate operating costs based on the 2023 rate of \$150,000 with staff on site to support individuals experiencing homelessness at a cost of \$67,550 to be contracted through a Call for Application.
 - (iii) One hundred daytime drop-in spaces through a Call for Application that would function daily to March 31, 2024 as low-barrier daytime services at an approximate cost of \$584,154.
 - (iv) Additional operating hours to 11:30PM at three designated recreation facilities to enable these facilities to operate as warming spaces on statutory holidays and other days the recreation facilities are regularly scheduled to be closed from December 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 at an approximate cost of \$103,660.
 - (v) Additional operating hours at the Hamilton Public Library Central location to operate as a warming space, between 1:00PM - 5:00PM, on ten statutory and other days the library is regularly scheduled to be closed from December 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, at an approximate annual cost of \$10,070.
- (b) That funding beginning April 1, 2024 to continue existing drop-in services be referred to the Housing Services Division 2024 Tax Operating Budget Process as follows:
 - (i) Mission Services' Willow's Place twenty-two spaces for day-time drop-in for women at an approximate annual cost of \$653,558

- (ii) Young Women's Christian Association's Carol Anne's Place night-time drop-in twenty-two spaces for women at an approximate annual cost of \$964,510
- (c) That funding beginning April 1, 2024 to create year-round capacity and programming for 100 daytime drop-in spaces, at an approximate annual cost of \$1,752,462, be referred to the Housing Services Division 2024 Tax Operating Budget process;
- (d) That the annual winter response strategy, from December 1, 2024 to March 31 2025 and annually thereafter, which supports vulnerable individuals within the homelessness serving system as follows at an approximate cost of \$915,434 be referred to the Housing Services Division 2024 Tax Operating Budget Process:
 - (i) One hundred drop-in spaces through a Call for Application that would function as low-barrier overnight winter warming spaces at an approximate annual cost of \$584,154.
 - (ii) Annualized funding for the operation of one overnight warming bus through Hamilton Transit at a cost of approximately \$217,550, which includes approximate operating costs based on the 2023 rate of \$150,000, with staff contracted to be on site to support individuals experiencing homelessness at an approximate cost of \$67,550.
 - (iii) Additional operating hours to 11:30PM at three designated recreation facilities on statutory holidays and other days the recreation facilities are regularly scheduled to be closed from December 1 through March 31 annually to operate as warming spaces at an approximate cost of \$103,660.
 - (iv) Additional operating hours at the Hamilton Public Library Central location to operate as a warming space, between 1:00PM - 5:00PM, on ten statutory and other days the library is regularly scheduled to be closed, from December 1 through March 31 annually, at an approximate annual cost of \$10,070.
- (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 negotiate, enter into, execute and administer all contracts, agreements and other documents necessary to implement recommendations (a) through (d) 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.