

Friday March 7th, 2024

Madam Mayor Andrea Howarth
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y3

Dear Madam Mayor Andrea Howarth

I am sending this letter, on the crisis facing so many in Affordable Housing, it is estimated that the waitlist for Housing is close to 26 yrs. I have written to all levels of Government in regards, to this.

A home is the base from which we have the security to build our lives as we choose. We should be able to choose where to live, whom to see, and how to behave in our home. In our home we should have the privacy to reflect and relax in peace. We should have the autonomy to decorate and maintain our home as we see fit. Our home is the focus of our social network. These are all arguably essential prerequisites of mental health and well-being. They should be seen as necessary components of housing programs, not as privileges to which people “graduate.

Housing problems can lead to worse health outcomes, mental illness.

Shortfalls in housing in Ontario are linked to higher service use, more hospitalization, adverse health outcomes, more homelessness, and lower life expectancy.

Study after study has shown that housing not only resolves homelessness and increases housing stability, but also improves health and lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly funded, crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, police resources, and Psychiatric Centers

When factoring in the cost of housing and eliminating outliers, they found that Affordable housing reduced each person's public costs approximately by \$1,145 per year.

Mayor Andrea Howarth, your compassion was much severed as you sat on the municipal non-profit housing corporation.

Affordable Housing is integrated throughout Hamilton and welcomed. There are people desperately waiting for Affordable Housing, we are speaking of evicted, renovicted, seniors, single parents, our most vulnerable in our community they deserve a place to live and be accepted into our communities, they pose no harm, they are participants and contribute. I am asking Mayor Andrea Howarth, to commit in recognizing this as a Crisis.

We need more Affordable Housing, to meet the needs.

The debate Parking over providing housing for people who are in desperate need, all space needs to be utilized in this crisis; Parking lots should be no exception.

Veteran's Lane, we have heard many speak of it, what better way to honor our Veterans, by giving people a place to live who are in need.

Thank you.

Angela Pugliese
Advocate to Persons with Disabilities

