

Additional Encampment Protocol Considerations

The following suggestions were made by City staff and people living unsheltered, based upon their experiences since the Protocol was established in August 2023. Presently, these are not recommendations being made to alter or adapt the existing version of the Encampment Protocol. Each consideration would require risk assessment and a consideration of the associated impacts prior to being made operational.

Provisions to Consider Adding to the Protocol:

- 10 metre distance from war monuments, e.g., Gore Park Cenotaph and Battlefield Monuments. There were also suggestions that the prohibited area(s) include the entire park the war monument was located in.
- 5 metre distance from paths and trails that receive winter maintenance and snow removal, as it may pose a safety risk to those living unsheltered.
- 25 metre distance away from any snow dumping location(s) used by the City during its winter month snow clearance program, as it may pose a safety risk to those living unsheltered.
- Pending City-initiated construction at an existing, compliant location must be vetted by the Coordinated Response Team prior to work starting, to ensure the health and safety of individuals living, and staff working at the site. If the scope of the work is necessary and intensive, the individual(s) staying at a site may be required to move to a new compliant location for the duration of the construction and until open to the public for use again.
- Add clause prohibiting Recreational Vehicles and trailers from parking on public lands (i.e., roadways, lots) within the Protocol, to ensure transparency and consistency of approach from City staff.
- A list of specific areas/locations where individuals living unsheltered can set up tents.
- Some suggestions were made that pausing any enforcement action from occurring during extreme cold weather, heat alerts, or during other inclement weather conditions should be considered, as this can pose a health and safety risk for individuals moving to a new location. There was also a suggestion that maintaining the current approach was beneficial in that it allowed for appropriate discretion.

Provisions to Consider Modifying within the Protocol

- Extend distance away from a transit shelter from 5 to 10 metres to mitigate negative interactions resulting from tents being too close to people awaiting transit
- Add provision that includes distances away from senior's residences and/or Long-Term Care facilities.
- Extend distance a tent or structure must be away from City buildings i.e., 10 metres, to mitigate any potential damages resulting from fires.
- Extend required distance from private property, from 10 to 20 metres, to respond to several complaints received from concerned citizens. This may have significant negative ramifications on available, compliant spaces.
- Extend "on any fenced-in, off-leash dog area." to "within 10 meters of any fenced-in, off-leash dog area" to mitigate health and safety risks for both dog-owners and individuals living unsheltered.
- Adapting fire and camping rules to be more lenient, given the concerns related to cold weather and to ensure individuals living unsheltered can cook food.

Provisions to Consider Removing from Protocol

- Remove reference to Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters and allow for previously designated space to be occupied.
- Remove reference to "under any bridge," as these locations provide protection against inclement weather and mitigate health concerns.