

General Issues Committee Meeting 24-004
February 21, 2024

Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap Work Program: City Property Review and Property Disposition Strategies (PED23099(a) / HSC23028(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

That the following Motion, ***as amended***, be REFERRED to the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Liaison Committee for consideration:

WHEREAS, Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre has demonstrated its commitment to supporting families in Hamilton through partnerships with Licensed Child Care Services with full funding agreements with the City, catering to the developmental and learning needs of 49 children aged 0 to 4 years, that contributes significantly to the community's access to high-quality, affordable child care;

WHEREAS, Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre has effectively collaborated with an EarlyON Child and Family Centre Operator, who has a funding agreement with the City, to successfully provide access to 10,848 free, high-quality visits for Hamilton parents and caregivers with children aged prenatal to 6 years old in 2023. This collaboration plays a vital role with enhancing children's learning and development, providing support to parents and caregivers, and connecting thousands of families annually to crucial community services;

WHEREAS, Mayor Horwath on April 12, 2023, through a unanimous motion of City Council, formally issued three separate declarations of emergency, in the areas of homelessness, mental health and opioid overdoses/poisoning;

WHEREAS, Hamilton has over 1600 unhoused individuals across the homelessness system and close to 50,000 at risk of homelessness – including seniors;

WHEREAS, the Access to Housing waitlist as of December 31, 2022, was at 6,110, 15% of which are seniors;

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre and Community Hub is scheduled as part of the City's 10-year capital budget plan;

WHEREAS, the construction of new affordable housing units on publicly owned land saves substantial resources for affordable housing providers;

WHEREAS, the construction of affordable housing units above a recreation facility provides tremendous health benefits to those residing in such a building; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of new affordable housing units above a City of Hamilton recreation centre is a compact form of sustainable development;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City of Hamilton Recreation and Facilities staff be directed to reconvene meetings with the Hamilton is Home Coalition, Childcare staff and Housing Services staff, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Chair and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Ward 5 Trustee to discuss the challenges faced regarding the proposed construction of new affordable housing units for seniors, as part of the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre and Community Hub expansion project; and
- (b) ***That City of Hamilton Recreation and Facilities staff be directed to develop a plan to work in partnership with the Hamilton Wentworth School Board, to convince the Province of Ontario to reverse their decision that denied a plan to build affordable housing for seniors on public property around the existing Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre;***
- (c) That an information report identifying the opportunities, alternatives, dependencies, ***the steps taken to convince the Province of Ontario to reverse their decision with the outcome*** and proposed next steps required to construct a Community Hub with a social housing component at the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre site be brought to the General Issues Committee by Q3 of 2024;
- (d) ***That the motion be forwarded to the Hamilton Wentworth School Board for their consideration; and***
- (e) ***That the motion be forwarded to the local Hamilton MPPs for a response.***