

# CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Date: June 26, 2024

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....**

**Exclusion of Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park Within the Encampment Protocol**

WHEREAS, the majority of Council agrees that public parks are incompatible with homeless tent encampments;

WHEREAS, City staff have recommended that encampments should not be permitted in public parks that are undergoing further park development options;

WHEREAS, the majority of Hamilton City Council has approved the exemption of Strachan Linear Park from the Encampment Protocol on the basis of ongoing park development options;

WHEREAS, Ward 8 residents are suffering with the ongoing impacts of homeless tent encampments in both Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park, including: threats of violence, disruptive and aggressive behavior, theft, destruction of property, open drug use, urination and defecation, desecration of a war memorial and trash and garbage;

WHEREAS, both Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park have undergone a Park Masterplan and are currently undergoing further park development initiatives in order to further activate these spaces for community use.

WHEREAS, City staff have indicated that it is not desirable to disrupt a homeless tent encampment to enable development options of a public space;

WHEREAS, development of Southam Park is in the 2025 capital plan and development of Sam Lawrence Park is underway now and this work will disrupt ongoing homeless tent encampments;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Encampment Protocol be amended to include an exclusion from allowing encampments, temporary shelters, or tents in Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park until further park development options can be explored.