

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: July 8, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS.....

Exclusion of Mountain Drive Park (MDP) Within the Encampment Protocol

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

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2024, City Council approved the exemption for Strachan Linear Park from the Encampment Protocol;

WHEREAS, Ward 6 housed residents are suffering with the ongoing impacts of homeless tent encampments at Mountain Drive Park (MDP) including: threats of violence, disruptive and aggressive behavior, theft, destruction of property, open drug use, urination and defecation, trash and garbage;

WHEREAS, Mountain Drive Park (MDP) is a neighbourhood and community-wide park that completed a parks master plan redevelopment review study during the pandemic involving a 40 member volunteer MDP Redevelopment Task Force of residents from Wards 6 and 7 with approved Council funding resulting in a 2 phase construction plan that began in 2023 and will continue through 2025, with the potential to disrupt ongoing homeless tent encampments;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to prepare a motion to amend the Encampment Protocol to mitigate impacts on those living in and around encampments as outlined in Appendix "A", which was approved by Council on August 18, 2023, including:
 - (i) adding an exclusion from allowing encampments, temporary shelters, or tents in Mountain Drive Park (MDP) until further park development initiatives are completed.