

CITY OF HAMILTON

REVISED MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: August 12, 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:

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, to include an exclusion from allowing encampments, temporary shelters, or tents in Mountain Drive Park (MDP) until further park development initiatives are completed, as follows:

D) Prohibited Areas for Erecting Encampments, Temporary Shelters, or Tents

In order to provide for the availability of space for temporary shelter in parks, persons without shelter or being homeless will be able to establish an encampment through erecting a temporary shelter for themselves and also be able group together with other such persons' temporary shelters. However, the encampment or cluster of shelters must not exceed five tents or similar temporary shelters, and there must be at least 50 meters separating the encampment or cluster from other encampments or clusters of shelters. Further, the balancing of public and private interests while allowing for temporary shelter will require encampments or clusters not be located:

- 23. Mountain Drive Park (MDP) until further park development initiatives are completed.**