

CITY OF HAMILTON

REVISED MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: August 12, 2024

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

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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, trash and garbage;

WHEREAS, both Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park are City-wide parks that have recently completed Park Master Plans and are currently undergoing park development initiatives to further activate these spaces for City-wide 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, implementation of the Southam Park Master Plan is scheduled for 2024/25, and implementation of the of Sam Lawrence Park Master Plan is currently underway now, and this work will disrupt ongoing homeless tent encampments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed 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 Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park 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:

21. ***On Southam Park and Sam Lawrence Park until further park development options can be explored.***