

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: November 6, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Amendment to Item 2 of the General Issues Committee Report 23-023, respecting Public Feedback and Recommendations for an Encampment Protocol and Sanctioned Sites (HSC20036(g)) (City Wide) - REVISED, which was approved by Council on August 18, 2023

WHEREAS, *Safety in Parks*: Raises concerns about the safety of families and children in parks due to discarded needles, drug paraphernalia, proximity to playgrounds, proximity to property fences and potential encounters with individuals experiencing homelessness, including those who may have mental health or substance use issues;

WHEREAS, *Encampments and Public Use of Parks*: Frames parks as public spaces intended for safe and enjoyable use by all residents, but encampments are seen as creating a barrier to this;

WHEREAS, *Managing Homelessness*: Report HSC24027(c), Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments highlights that a 1 km radius is recommended to manage the placement of temporary outdoor shelters near Tiffany Park, where 80 outdoor shelters and 192 additional indoor beds will be established;

WHEREAS, *Parks Impacted*: The proposal acknowledges that 10 parks in Wards 2 and 3 will be affected by becoming non-compliant with current regulations, as these Wards are locations for temporary shelters;

WHEREAS, *Municipal Comparison*: The City of Hamilton is noted as being unique in Ontario for allowing encampments in parks, suggesting that this is a departure from typical municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is providing temporary indoor and outdoor shelters for 272 unsheltered and currently there are less than 300 unsheltered;

WHEREAS, the number of unsheltered is a fluid number and is never quantified.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Item 2 of the of the General Issues Committee Report 23-023, respecting Public Feedback and Recommendations for an Encampment Protocol and Sanctioned Sites (HSC20036(g)) (City Wide) - REVISED, be ***amended to prohibit overnight camping (tent encampments) in all City of Hamilton parks once a total of 192 additional shelter spaces are available through the previously approved expanded shelter capacity and outdoor shelter site.***