

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: November 20, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. SPADAFORA

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Audit of the City of Hamilton’s Spending on Homelessness

WHEREAS, homelessness is a complex, multifaceted issue that is not solely a municipal government issue given the intent and impact of provincial government and federal government policies and programs;

WHEREAS a City of Hamilton staff report from 2022 notes that in 2022, there were 1,500 homeless individuals living in Hamilton, an increase from the 1,200 homeless in 2021 and 1,000 homeless in 2020.

WHEREAS, in the 2023 budget, the City of Hamilton had allocated \$147 million to housing and homelessness, with the City of Hamilton pay slightly over 50% of the \$147 million;

WHEREAS, at the August 16, 2024 meeting of Council, it was disclosed that \$170 million within the City of Hamilton’s 2024 budget is allocated to housing and homelessness, with 70 per cent – \$119 million – identified as a direct City of Hamilton expense;

WHEREAS, at the October 23, 2024 meeting of Council, it was disclosed that the City of Hamilton anticipates spending \$186 million on housing and homelessness - \$16 million more than the \$170 million referenced at the August 15, 2024 meeting of Council;

WHEREAS, at the October 23, 2024 meeting of Council, it was disclosed that of the \$186 million the City of Hamilton will spend on housing and homelessness in 2024, the provincial government is providing \$41 million and the federal government is providing \$20 million;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton partners with numerous government, non-profit, and community stakeholders and provides funding toward housing and homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton's Office of the Auditor General be requested to conduct an audit that:
 - (i) Confirms the specific funds the City of Hamilton has allocated toward housing and homelessness within the 2024 Capital and Operating budgets, including internally within the City of Hamilton and externally with housing and homelessness partner stakeholders;
 - (ii) Determines how much the City of Hamilton has spent on housing and homelessness from the 2024 budget allocation, including the cost of providing mandated services and programs in the areas of housing and homelessness;
 - (iii) Determines the number of City of Hamilton staff and contracted staff supported from the 2024 Capital and Operating budgets and their corresponding specific budgetary costs;
 - (iv) Reviews the procurement process used to contract local service providers who provide services associated with housing and homelessness for the City of Hamilton; and
 - (v) Reviews the process used by the City of Hamilton to verify how funding allocations have been spent.