

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: February 5, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. McMEEKIN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Suitable Site for a Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) Community

WHEREAS, our city has declared homelessness to be a crisis according to recent research, which indicates that one unhoused person dies in Hamilton every 10 days;

WHEREAS, our city has resolved that the best way to manage, mitigate and eventually resolve this crisis is through an 'all of Hamilton' approach coupled with a three-level government commitment to build more affordable housing;

WHEREAS, dedicated volunteers of the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) have worked for over two years advocating a gated community for the unhoused based on Kitchener's award-winning Better Tent City model;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has already committed to partnering with HATS on a two-year Pilot project;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has recently adjusted the existing homelessness strategy and protocol in favour (based on broad community input focused on the safety of public parks and those currently encamping in those parks) of a combination of additional Shelter beds and Cabin transitional housing;

WHEREAS, HATS is dedicated to a best-practice project consistent with their researched study of the best North American practices of similar initiatives as outlined in their presented and comprehensive 95-page report;

WHEREAS, there is broad-based community support for HATS expressed by the following:

- the support of dozens of businesses and faith-based groups and leaders, including the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce;
- the training of over 100 police vetted community volunteers;
- the support of our Chief of Police;
- Over \$800,000 on-hand dollars raised from within the Hamilton community; and
- the to-date construction of 15 stand-alone cabins by volunteers and local providers

WHEREAS, HATS has made and continues to maintain contact with and support for many of our unhoused citizens;

WHEREAS, Hamilton has located a non-park site deemed worthy of rehabilitation in order to provide a 40-cabin site capable of housing 80 people;

WHEREAS, the creation of an additional 15 to 25 cabin site would enhance our city's ability to meet the need to provide safer transitional housing to those currently encamped in public parks and,

WHEREAS, a highly reputable social services agency, namely, St. Matthew's House, has been identified by HATS to manage a HATS site is supplemented by the support of THE HUB.

WHEREAS, HATS has sufficient funds raised and pledged privately to establish, maintain and sustain a village through 2025 and into 2026; and

WHEREAS, HATS has secured advocacy from permanent supportive housing providers to participate in an EXIT strategy for HATS village members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2300 Brampton Street site previously identified be reviewed in Q1 2025 to ascertain what rehabilitation can be expedited to possibly make this site useable for a 25-site cabin Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS) community; and
- (b) That staff be directed to immediately locate and propose an alternative site in Q1 2025 in concert with support from the local Ward Councillor, if remedial action(s) cannot be quickly taken to make the Brampton Street site suitable for a HATS community.