

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: February 5, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

Tackling Barriers to Building More Affordable and Supportive Housing

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is experiencing a housing crisis, with increasing demand for affordable and supportive housing outpacing available supply;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton continues to make significant investments in housing, including a gross allocation of \$192 million in the proposed 2025 Tax budget to address housing affordability and housing supports;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton provides a suite of mandatory and discretionary housing enabling exemptions from Development Charges, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland Dedication Fees to stimulate the construction of affordable and supportive housing;

WHEREAS, there may be barriers that prevent or delay the construction of affordable and supportive housing;

WHEREAS, innovative approaches and reforms, including alternative financing mechanisms aimed at lowering housing costs, have been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions to support the development of affordable and supportive rental housing while maintaining municipal revenue streams; and

WHEREAS, a jurisdictional scan to explore best practices aimed at diversifying, incentivizing and expanding Hamilton's rental housing stock while ensuring continued investment in critical infrastructure may assist the City of Hamilton in getting more homes built.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Housing Secretariat, in collaboration with other city divisions be directed to conduct a jurisdictional scan to identify and assess the potential adoption of reforms and financing mechanisms to support affordable and supportive properties while reducing reliance on development charges and property taxes; and,
- (b) That the Housing Secretariat be directed to report back to Council as part the Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap annual update, on the findings of the jurisdictional scan and providing recommendations for implementation in the City of Hamilton.