

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. SPADAFORA.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR J. BEATTIE.....**

**Removal of \$372,490 Budgeted for the Realigned Gardens Program (PW24031(a)) and Budgeting of \$350,000 for the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men’s Residence to Re-Open the Third Floor and House 43 Individuals**

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has supported Community Garden Programs in their current form for many years as successful volunteer-led programs, without drastic increases to project funding, enabling Hamilton residents to safely and affordably grow their own nutritious food;

WHEREAS, for the past 66 years since September 14, 1959, the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford has provided clean, safe, and affordable transitional housing for 174 men while supporting individuals at risk, facing both health and social challenges in Hamilton’s urban core;

WHEREAS, representatives from YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford delegated their budgetary needs at the General Issus Committee (Budget) meeting on November 18, 2024 at which time they communicated the devastating impact of the fire that initially displaced all 173 tenants;

WHEREAS, the third floor of the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men ‘s Residence remains vacant and could accommodate an additional 43 men in a transitional program (beyond simple accommodations) including wraparound services focusing on onsite health care, as well as addiction and mental health supports;

WHEREAS, the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men’s Residence is more than a shelter or stop-gap solution to homeless, and instead, designed to meet the broader scope of the City of Hamilton Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (CHHHAP);

WHEREAS, the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men's Residence is aligned with both the City of Hamilton's priorities for public safety, crime prevention, and affordable housing as well as the City of Hamilton's Vision;

WHEREAS, the leadership, staff, and volunteers of YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men's Residence are poised to save lives, reduce inequity, and build a healthier Hamilton;

WHEREAS the creation of 43 spaces for homeless individuals will expand the City of Hamilton's supportive housing ecosystem, reduce the strain on public systems, and address homelessness at its root, all the while building a healthier, more equitable community;

WHEREAS the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford's Men's Residence aligns to the Housing First Model that focuses on providing stable housing for the homeless, followed by making available a set of individualized supports and services resulting in a more cost-effective annual cost per resident (\$11,182 to \$15,691) when compared to alternatives such as a hospital bed (\$130,800), prison (\$115,000), long-term care facility (\$45,000), emergency shelter (\$42,000), and ultimately, the public cost of an individual experiencing homelessness and mental illness (\$53,144) as well as the cost after one year of a homeless ex-prisoner not in a shelter (\$400,000);

WHEREAS, incredibly, the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford remains one of the only unfunded community homelessness housing solutions in the City of Hamilton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, **be amended**, as follows:
  - (i) Remove the \$372,490 budgeted for 2 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) as part of the Realigned Gardens Program (PW24031(a));
  - (ii) Allocate \$350,000 to the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men's Residence to fund Staffing, Security and Public Safety Measures, a Mental Health and Addiction Specialist, Food Security (Non-Perishables) and Resident Essentials, and Capital Repairs so as to open the third floor and house 43 men.