

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council: February 12, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Support Homeless Individuals and Prioritize the Removal of Encampments

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton relies on many local social agencies, harm reduction, homeless and encampment organizations that provide various levels of support to vulnerable populations throughout the City;

WHEREAS, in 2024 the City of Hamilton invested a total of \$186 million dollars towards housing and homelessness, \$125 million funded by municipal taxpayers, equivalent to approximately \$215 per resident per year;

WHEREAS, in January 2025 Council approved direction that will restrict homeless tent encampments from City parks, beginning on March 6th, 2025 and the permanent removal of encampments from parks is a Council priority;

WHEREAS, various third-party organizations believe that it is their mandate to maintain homeless tent encampments in City parks and are encouraging encampment residents to resist options other than encampments;

WHEREAS, residents have reported observing instances where homeless individuals have received organized assistance to set up, relocate and provision encampments in City parks;

WHEREAS, as part of general public accountability and transparency, all organizations receiving taxpayer funding through the City of Hamilton are required to provide services that fulfil an established mandate;

WHEREAS, organizations receiving City funding that are unwilling or unable to work within the scope of their approved mandate are free to do whatever they want on their own time with their own funding; and

WHEREAS, limited taxpayer resources should be prioritized to fund organizations that are fulfilling the scope of their funding mandates to support current City of Hamilton Council approved by-laws and policies in alignment with the interests of residents, and the wellbeing of homeless individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Housing Services staff be directed to identify and itemize all City funding allocated to homelessness support social agencies, harm reduction, and encampment outreach organizations; and,
- (b) That Housing Services staff use their discretion to re-align City funding as required to organizations that are fulfilling their individual funding mandates, working with the City of Hamilton in alignment with Council approved by-laws and policies with a focus of eliminating homeless tent encampments in City parks beginning March 6th, 2025.