

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: March 5, 2025

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Re-Allocation 2025 Housing Services Division Tax Operating Budget Funding for the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to an Alternative Service Provider - REVISED

WHEREAS in August 2023, the City of Hamilton approved annual funding beginning in 2024 and continuing indefinitely in subsequent budget years, of up to \$1.197 M from the Housing Services Division Tax Operating Budget, including annualized funding to the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic in the amount of \$290,000 (HSC23023(b)).

WHEREAS the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic has chosen to become involved in adversarial civil litigation against the City of Hamilton including various court injunctions and the lengthy Charter challenge, directly costing City taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

WHEREAS the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic has been directly involved in negotiations between the City of Hamilton and various encampment support organizations with the intention influencing City policy to allow overnight homeless tent encampments in City parks.

WHEREAS encampment court injunctions and civil litigation against the City of Hamilton have resulted in City policy that permitted homeless tent encampments in City parks, resulting in increased property crime, public drug use, illegal drug trafficking, firearms offenses, fires, disorderly conduct, assault, violent crime, and intimidation of city residents and businesses to the extent that many residents believe they are effectively excluded from accessing City parks.

WHEREAS due to the independent actions of the Community Legal Clinic, their commercial relationship with the City of Hamilton as a service provider may be impaired.

WHEREAS many residents have lost confidence in the Community Legal Clinic as a service provider receiving taxpayer dollars.

WHEREAS in a letter dated February 4th, 2025 in reference to the City of Hamilton Tenant Support Program and various activities, the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic states that “We will continue to do that work even if the City of Hamilton chooses to end this partnership. The impact on the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic will be minimal.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Housing Services staff identify an alternative service provider to the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to support the Hamilton Tenant Support Program; and
- (b) That the \$290,000 annual funding allocation to the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic in the 2025 Housing Services Divisional Tax Operating Budget, be re-allocated to the alternate service provider.