

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

General Issues Committee - March 25, 2026

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR A. WILSON.....**

### **Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton**

WHEREAS, as of December 2025, the number of unhoused people living in the City of Hamilton is approximately 1980;

WHEREAS, of those 1980, approximately 338 are unsheltered, meaning they are not staying in emergency shelters or other temporary accommodations;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton provides, operates, and partners with community agencies to offer several drop-in, shelter, and warming spaces for individuals who are unsheltered, with expanded services during winter months;

WHEREAS, drop-ins offer temporary accommodation, access to basic necessities, as well as supports both onsite and in the community to meet immediate and longer-term needs related to overall health, wellbeing, and the ability to acquire housing;

WHEREAS, the current homeless serving system, including winter response overnight drop in and warming spaces, are not sufficient to meet the needs of all people living unsheltered; and,

WHEREAS, people with pets and couples are not accommodated in the current drop-ins.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED -

- (a) That staff be directed to bring forward a report to General Issues Committee in Q2 2026 outlining a winter response strategy for the 2026/27 winter season that addresses any service gaps in the current system, and details the funding required to operationalize the enhanced service; and

- (b) That the report include, but not be limited to:
  - (i) An assessment of service quality and capacity to meet the City's evolving needs;
  - (ii) Best practices and models from other municipalities; and,
  - (iii) A cost analysis of funding required to operationalize a comprehensive winter response strategy.