



Mayoral Directive to Staff MDI-2024-02

DATE: August 6, 2024

TO: Marnie Cluckie, City Manager/CAO

WHEREAS there are high rates of homelessness and a high number of encampments within the City of Hamilton; and

WHEREAS additional, immediate supports are needed for the unhoused community within the City of Hamilton, including those currently living within encampments;

WHEREAS there are avenues to establish sanctioned, temporary outdoor shelter site(s) on City-owned property as an alternative to encampments, pending the transition to more permanent housing solutions including transitional, supportive and affordable housing within the City of Hamilton;

THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by section 284.3 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, I, Andrea Horwath, Mayor of the City of Hamilton, direct City staff as follows:

- 1) To undertake research respecting options for the manufacture and installation of temporary shelter structures within Hamilton including costs, identification of funding sources, potential vendors and potential sites;
- 2) To undertake research respecting various models of temporary shelter structures including, but not limited to, the following information:
 - i. Time required to purchase and install shelter structures,
 - ii. Ability of shelter structure models to address varying needs of intended occupants (e.g., personal privacy, safety and security, storage of personal items, accommodation for couples and/or pets etc.),
 - iii. Structures for the provision of centralized, on-site, support and supplementary services (e.g., health, mental health and substance use counselling, housing services, laundry facility, washroom

- facility, bathing facility, community area/meal access space, waste collection, etc.),
- iv. Site requirements for temporary shelter structures, and estimated cost for site preparation and security including but not limited to, optimal number of units per site, layout, grounds preparation, utilities, plumbing, electrical, perimeter management, etc.;
- 3) To obtain a legal opinion regarding the establishment of sanctioned, temporary outdoor shelter site(s) as an alternative to encampments in parks;
 - 4) To undertake research to identify models of operation for the sanctioned, temporary outdoor shelter site(s);
 - 5) To undertake research to identify potential community partnerships and service providers, including but not limited to, the City of Hamilton's Housing Services and Housing Focused Street Outreach teams, local hospitals, the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN), faith and community organizations, Hamilton Police Service (Rapid Intervention Support Team, Social Navigator Program, etc.), and others, to provide services similar to those currently being provided to people living in encampments;
 - 6) To explore the development of and/or identify a centralized system to coordinate supportive services similar to those being provided at encampments;
 - 7) That due to the urgency of the homelessness crisis, staff provide a report with relevant information and recommendations for implementation of items 1 – 5 at the Sept 18, 2024 General Issues Committee meeting, and item 6 at the October 16, 2024 General Issues Committee meeting.



Andrea Horwath
Mayor, City of Hamilton

c.c. Matthew Trennum, City Clerk