

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 18
28 APRIL 2021**

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**COMITÉ DES SERVICES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE PROTECTION RAPPORT 18
LE 28 AVRIL 2021**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 18
COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
15 APRIL 2021**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU PROCÈS-VERBAL 18
COMITÉ DES SERVICES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE PROTECTION
LE 15 AVRIL 2021**

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INVESTMENT PLAN – HOUSING SUBSIDIES

ACS2021-CSS-GEN-0005

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council approve:

- 1. The update of the housing allowance framework, rules and subsidy calculation for Envelope #4 – (Rent Supplement and Housing Allowances) of the municipally funded Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan for new allocations to be consistent with current provincial portable housing benefit programs.**
- 2. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to reallocate funding from investment Envelope #6 (Social Housing Repairs and Renewal) of the municipally funded Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan towards investment Envelope #4 (Rent Supplement and Housing Allowances) within the same program year based on rent supplement/housing allowance demand and need rather than the current model that targets funds for exclusive use within each investment funding envelope type.**
- 3. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to reallocate \$300,000 funding from investment Envelope #5 (Supports to Housing) of the municipally funded Housing and Homelessness**

Investment Plan towards investment Envelope #4 (Rent Supplement and Housing Allowances) to support additional housing allowances for homeless and at risk households.

- 4. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to allocate up to \$1 million of Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Operating Component – Rental Assistance Year 3 (2021/22) funding to support additional housing allowances for homeless and at risk households, and that the use of this provincial funding align with the OPHI program guidelines and the housing allowance framework outlined in this report.**
- 5. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to allocate \$1 million of Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 3 – Homelessness Prevention Rent Relief funding to support short term rent relief for households experiencing homelessness, and that the use of this provincial funding align with the provincial SSRF guidelines and the housing allowance framework outlined in this report.**
- 6. The continuation of the Home For Good housing allowance program for new allocations utilizing available funding, first from the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 – Rental Assistance funding program, then from the provincial Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative Operating Component – Rental Assistance funding program, until such time that additional Home for Good operating funding is provided by the Province of Ontario.**
- 7. That the Mayor pursue additional annual capital funding and permanent stable operating funding from the federal and provincial governments to add new housing subsidies for low income.**

Donna Gray, General Manager, Community and Social Services gave some opening remarks on the report and introduced Lisa Goodfellow, Manager, Social Housing who gave a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is held on file in the City Clerk's office.

Before going to delegations Vice-Chair Egli introduced the following technical amendment motion:

Motion CPS 2021 18/1

Moved by Councilor K.Egli

WHEREAS the report entitled "Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan – Housing Subsidies" (ACS2021-CSS-GEN-005) was distributed to Community and Protective Services Committee on April 6, 2021 and will be considered by the Community and Protective Services Committee on April 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS following distribution, staff identified an error on page 22, HHIP Funding Envelope Chart - 2021 Projects Costs Column. The Total Budget Figure to be revised from \$8,080,385 to \$8,247,073;

WHEREAS following distribution, staff identified an error on page 23, HHIP Funding Envelope Chart - 2023 Projects Costs Column. The Total Budget Figure to be revised from \$8,412,015 to \$8,922,792

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community and Protective Services Committee approve technical amendments to pages 22 and 23, to reflect the revised budget amounts.

CARRIED

The Committee heard from the following delegations:

1. Salma Al-Shehabi – She would like to stress the need to find alternative funding source(s) to meet the report recommendations going forward, and more sustainable solutions to our housing crisis. The report points out that the long-range financial plan is proactive measure ahead of stage 2 funding from National Housing Strategy. For this very reason, it would be crucial to have our HHP and LRFP on the right track. She would like to

take this opportunity to ask again to use the available data to do the right thing for our residents, and reconsider bringing forth more aggressive HHP and LRFP. It is not just for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, it is for everyone in our city. If we don't take bold moves now, when will we? Now, is our best chance to save our city's housing affordability.

2. *John Dickie – Eastern Ontario Landlords Organization - EOLO supports this report. Appreciates the work staff are doing. The Federal and provincial funding is clear and it may make sense to review the design of the portable housing benefits. He is 95 % in agreement with staff presentation. Shouldn't see rent inflation because of these programs. The action the city has taken will assist with the community needs.

[* *All individuals marked with an asterisk either provided their comments in writing or by email; all such comments are held on file with the City Clerk.]*

Following the presentation and delegations Committee members had a variety of questions for staff:

- We must take money from envelopes where we shouldn't be taking money. First delegation said that was not very wise. The National Housing agency is now picking up repairs. We are waiting for province funding so in the meantime we need to fill the gap. Councillor Deans suggested a Direction to Staff which was accepted by the Committee.
- Not seeing a reduction in housing need, rather a greater need. That speaks to how the municipality can't go about this alone. How can we further advocate so we don't have this uncertainty? What happens if we don't get the fed/prov money? Staff said that they have done long-range financial planning and identified needs within the strategies. Have strong advocacy plan.
- There is a central data base system for housing that the Federal Government uses as well as the City and agencies.
- At present immigration has slowed down but must prepare for when pandemic eases.

- What kind of conversation does staff have with the province before coming to Committee? Staff do speak directly with ministry. There is also a cross table with all city counterparts, and they speak directly to the deputy minister to provide input. Also advising Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The report recommendations were CARRIED as presented with amending motion to report.

DIRECTION TO STAFF

That staff be directed to advise Community and Protective Services Committee and Council in advance of using the Social Housing Repairs and Renewal envelope #6, including the amount and intent for use of the funds.