

EX1.1.2

From: [Paul Dowling](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: My comments for 2019.EX1.1 on January 23, 2019 Executive Committee
Date: January 22, 2019 9:33:59 AM
Attachments: [Deputation to Executive Committee from Human Rights Working Group. TAEH.docx](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting on item 2019.EX1.1, Implementing the "Housing Now" Initiative

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Attached

**Deputation to Executive Committee
January 23, 2019**

Congratulations on the “Housing Now” Initiative. The staff report is comprehensive, touching on all of the solutions and mechanisms available to achieve affordable housing, beginning with making City-owned lands available.

As the chair of the newly established Human Rights Working Group of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness, which was created to carry on the human rights advocacy work of HomeComing, I am very pleased to see the City taking a **small** step in the right direction.

We all agree that deeply affordable and supportive housing are the solution to the crisis of homelessness in our City. The “Housing Now” Initiative will contribute to that much needed solution. Unfortunately, the contribution is far too small to have a meaningful impact.

The staff estimate is that the 11 City sites will produce 10,187 new housing units, 3,629 of them “affordable” at 80% of market. Of these 362 (10%) will be deeply affordable at 40% of market. These 362 units could address the needs of 5% of the 8,000 people who were homeless last night. The report provides that the City will work with the developers of the 11 sites to try to make the remaining “affordable” units deeply affordable, using a variety of funding tools.

If the efforts outlined in the report are successful, the 11 City owned sites could help to reduce homelessness in Toronto by almost half. It will require another 11 similar sites, developed with the same kinds of tools, to eliminate homelessness. That is, if the growth in the number of homeless people does not continue at the rate it has in the past.

I urge the Executive Committee to endorse the general direction of the staff report, with an increase in the level of commitments for affordable and deeply affordable housing. We have the opportunity to make a real difference, now.

Paul Dowling, Chair
Human Rights Working Group
Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness