



December 18, 2020

Sent via email - councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

We are writing to support the recommendations and plan contained in the staff report for Item PH19.11 – *24-Month COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Response Plan – Update* - before you today.

It is no small thing to create 150 new supportive housing opportunities and up to an additional 510 housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in the next 8 – 12 weeks. We are pleased and encouraged by the City staff's vision and commitment to do so. And we are equally committed to doing our part, as noted recommendations 2 and 13.e

The TAEH, as you know, identifies, and promotes solutions to ending homelessness. We work closely with your Shelter, Supports and Housing Administration (SSHA) on developing a more evidence-based, data focussed approach to understanding inflow into homelessness and matching people to the housing and supports that best fit their needs. We often present to Council Committees on the good progress being made here.

We also work closely with the Housing Secretariat on a variety of housing outcomes for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The modular housing initiative is only the latest example. One of the "value-add" contributions our network brings is our reach beyond City-funded programs and providers. By convening a diverse set of housing and homelessness service providers working in all the sectors that are pathways into homelessness (healthcare, justice, child welfare, etc.) and funded by a variety of sources, including different provincial ministries, we are able to bring all the resources available to create housing solutions to homelessness in Toronto to the table.

The TAEH is also very much in support of the recommendation to create the Housing and Homelessness Action Table. This is another tool that we have advocated for, along with many Councillors and through our deputations to Committees and know it will make a meaningful difference in our collective response to homelessness in Toronto. We are well aware of the limits of what is possible without increased resources, especially for operating costs and support services, from the other orders of government and will continue to advocate strongly for additional commitments from them as well.

In conclusion then, we encourage you to support today's report and we look forward to contributing to the future success of the actions and outcomes contained within it.

Sincerely,

Kira Heineck, Executive Director

Committed to Ending Homelessness

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