



Councillor
Mary-Margaret McMahon

CD14.12.1

Ward 32 Beaches / East York

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September 6, 2016

Chair Pasternak,
Community Development and Recreation Committee

Re: Amending the Shelter Approval Process

I am proposing several changes to the shelter approval process which I believe will increase public involvement, transparency and consistency.

In the next few years Torontonians will need a number of new homeless shelters to replace those that have recently closed, as part of the George Street Revitalization, and to meet the need for additional shelter services. Many of these new shelters will be in communities without similar services today. It is essential that we develop a streamlined process that balances the input of local communities with the urgent need to house those living on the streets.

Community engagement under the current approval process has caused divisive debates in local communities. Creating a more robust and standardized engagement process will increase the public's confidence that any new homeless shelter has been properly studied and discussed before it opens.

Finally, to ensure that these projects move quickly through the City's planning, development and building approval process when needed, a 'Gold Star' planning initiative that expedites those approvals and reduces red tape should be extended to homeless shelters.

Recommendation:

1. *General Manager of Shelter Support and Housing Administration report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the 4th quarter of 2016 regarding:*
 - a. *Reviewing the City's obligations and requirements under the Municipal Shelter By-law and whether it should be amended to delegate authority for shelter approvals to the General Manager of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration;*



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- b. Developing a standard community engagement process for proposed shelters;*
- c. Through consultation with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the feasibility of implementing a process similar to the 'Gold Star' planning initiative to the shelter approval process.*

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