

CD19.11.1

From: [Melissa Goldstein](#)
To: [Mayor Tory](#); [Councillor Moeser](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor Shan](#); [Councillor Lee](#); [Councillor Kelly](#); [Councillor Karygiannis](#); [Councillor DeBaeremaeker](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Councillor Crawford](#); [Councillor Holland](#); [Councillor Minnan-Wong](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor McMahon](#); [Councillor Davis](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Fragedakis](#); [Councillor McConnell](#); [Councillor Wongtam](#); [Councillor Burnside](#); [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Councillor Shiner](#); [Councillor Filion](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor Mihevc](#); [Councillor Cressy](#); [Councillor Layton](#); [Councillor Bailao](#); [Councillor Palacio](#); [Councillor Carmichael Greb](#); [Councillor Colle](#); [Councillor Perks](#); [Councillor Doucette](#); [Councillor Di Giorgio](#); [Councillor Nunziata](#); [Councillor Pasternak](#); [Councillor Augimeri](#); [Councillor Perruzza](#); [Councillor Mammoliti](#); [Councillor Grimes](#); [Councillor Di Ciano](#); [Councillor Campbell](#); [Councillor Holyday](#); [Councillor Crisanti](#); [Councillor MFord](#)
Cc: [Community Development and Recreation Committee](#)
Subject: Reinstate the Shelter Staff Positions Cut From 2017 Budget
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:46:24 PM

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I writing to ask you to reinstate the 10.3 front-line staff positions cut from the 2017 City of Toronto budget, as recommended by SSHA staff (Agenda Item CD19.11).

The March 30th staff report on the service level impact of the 2017 “service adjustments” to SSHA notes that the overall occupancy rate of the City’s shelters on March 15th was at 97%. This is in spite of the fact that last year’s budget was supposed to enable shelters to achieve the service standard of a 90% occupancy rate set by Council. Council set that standard in recognition that shelter occupancy above 90% produces severe shelter overcrowding and unhealthy/unsafe conditions in shelters for both the people staying in shelters and the people working in shelters; it results in people in need of emergency shelter from the elements & predators being turned away and left outside in the cold, the rain, or the heat; and it prevents people from being able to flee abusive situations. Ultimately, it puts people’s lives at risk.

Clearly, last year’s funding for shelters was inadequate: there wasn’t enough shelter space to accommodate the people in need of shelter, and shelters weren’t properly resourced to accommodate the actual number of people using shelters. Cutting shelter funding further will only contribute to even worse shelter conditions, even fewer services for people experiencing homelessness, and even more deaths of people experiencing homelessness: deaths that could easily have been prevented if the City had made addressing poverty and ending homelessness funding priorities.

Toronto’s affordable housing and homelessness crisis needs to be addressed with a serious *increase* in public investment. Responding to this issue by cutting funding is not only counterproductive, but wholly unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Melissa Goldstein
Chair, Housing Action Now
Member Support Coordinator, Toronto Drop-In Network