

City Council

Meeting No.	22	Contact	Marilyn Toft, Manager
Meeting Date	Tuesday, November 8, 2016 Wednesday, November 9, 2016	Phone	416-392-7032
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	clerk@toronto.ca
Location	Council Chamber, City Hall		

Board of Health - Meeting 15

HL15.3	ACTION	Referred		Ward:All
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Housing and Health: Unlocking Opportunity

City Council Decision

City Council on November 8 and 9, 2016, referred Item HL15.3 to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2017 Budget process.

City Council Decision Advice and Other Information

During the review of the Order Paper on November 8, 2016, Speaker Nunziata ruled that the Board of Health's recommendation to Council could not be adopted in its current form. Speaker Nunziata suggested that the Board's advice was intended for consideration during the upcoming budget process and asked for a Motion to refer Board of Health Item HL15.3 to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2017 Budget process.

Origin

(October 13, 2016) Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Summary

Affordable, good quality, and stable housing is important for health and overall well-being and for building healthy and inclusive communities. The increasing unaffordability of housing in Toronto is a significant public health concern given the many connections between housing and health. Research and lived experience in Toronto demonstrate that housing unaffordability, poor quality housing and neighbourhoods, and housing instability, including homelessness, are associated with a range of poor mental and physical health outcomes, risk factors for poor health, health care non-adherence and follow-up, and are significant costs to the health care system.

Housing is a key priority for all three levels of government, making it an opportune time to consider health and health equity as explicit goals in housing policy. To promote the health of Torontonians and reduce health inequities, new policies and program interventions are needed that: increase the supply and support the repair and maintenance of affordable, supportive, and accessible housing; provide adequate income, financial assistance and quality employment so people are not forced to make difficult choices between paying rent, food, utilities and other

basic elements of a healthy life; tackle discrimination within the housing system; and prevent homelessness in a child's early years through investments in mental health supports and violence prevention.

Given the key role of social and economic factors in contributing to the affordability, quality, and stability of people's living environment, it is critical to address the upstream causes of homelessness and housing instability in housing policy as well as related public policy areas such as income security, employment, and health care policy.

Background Information (Board)

(October 13, 2016) Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health on Housing and Health: Unlocking Opportunity

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-97425.pdf>)

Attachment 1: Housing and Health: Unlocking Opportunity, October, 2016

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-97428.pdf>)

(October 31, 2016) Presentation from the Acting Medical Officer of Health on Housing and Health: Unlocking Opportunity

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-97797.pdf>)

Communications (Board)

(October 27, 2016) Letter from Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse (HL.New.HL15.3.1)

Speakers

Heather McGregor, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Toronto

Derek Moran