

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM9.38	ACTION			Ward: All
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Interim Housing Assistance Program for Refugee/Asylum Claimants Arriving in Toronto - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

City Council adopt the following recommendations in the report (July 12, 2019) from the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services:

1. City Council authorize the Mayor and the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Federal government in order for the City to:
 - a. receive funding to provide services to refugee/asylum claimants as part of the local plan referred to in this report, such agreement to be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and
 - b. allocate funding in accordance with the agreement and the local plan.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, or designate to:
 - a. allocate funds received from the Federal government and enter into agreements with community agencies, hotels or other service providers, in or outside of the City of Toronto, in support of the local plan, such agreements to be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
 - b. allocate funds received from the Federal government and enter into agreements with other participating municipalities in support of the local plan, such agreements to be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and

c. allocate funds received from the Federal government and enter into other agreements as may be necessary to provide services to refugee/asylum claimants in support of the local plan.

Summary

Since 2016, there has been an ongoing and consistent increase in the number of refugee/asylum claimants seeking emergency shelter in Toronto. This trend surged in 2018 and through 2019 continues to add additional pressure to Toronto's already strained shelter system.

As part of its ongoing response to this challenge, the City is now proposing to lead a proactive approach with the Federal government and other willing municipalities to increase shelter and housing options to refugee/asylum claimants arriving in Toronto. The details of this plan, described in the accompanying staff report, continue to be developed, and as such, this Motion seeks authority to implement this plan – at no net cost to the City of Toronto – over the summer as further details are finalized.

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration staff continue to work with the Federal government and local municipalities to maximize the opportunities for all shelter users, including refugee/asylum claimant families. While the full amount of available funding from the Federal government for this initiative is still being determined, this Motion seeks authority for the City to receive all available funding from the Federal government and to administer this funding – up to the amount provided by the Federal government – to all willing municipalities (including Toronto) for the costs associated with and incurred as a direct result of this approach.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM9.38

(July 12, 2019) Report from the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services on Interim Housing Assistance Program for Refugee/Asylum Claimants Arriving in Toronto (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-136021.pdf>)