

**From:** [Daphna Nussbaum](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2019.MM5.2 on March 27, 2019 City Council  
**Date:** March 26, 2019 3:18:03 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 27, 2019 City Council meeting on item 2019.MM5.2, Expanding the City's Housing Allowance Program - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão and Councillor Brad Bradford

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

**TO:** Toronto City Council  
**DATE:** March 26, 2019  
**RE:** Motion MM5.2, Expanding the City's Housing Allowance Program - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão and Councillor Brad Bradford

The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH) is a collective impact initiative committed to ending homelessness in Toronto. We are also the City's Community Advisory Board on Homelessness. Our vision is zero chronic homelessness in Toronto – when on any given day we will always have more sustainable housing available than we have people experiencing chronic homelessness.

We are writing in support of Motion MM5.2 brought forward by Councillors' Cressy, Bailão and Bradford regarding an expansion of the City's Housing Allowance Program. More housing allowances will ultimately make the difference for people between stable housing and the use of emergency shelters. We also support increasing deeply affordable housing supply.

Toronto's recent Street Needs Assessment found that over 94% of people experiencing homelessness would like to move to housing. TAEH supports a significant expansion in housing allowances as a demand-side tool that can be rapidly deployed. Furthermore, housing allowances can be accompanied by short-term follow-up supports or longer-term supports for people who require that; but just providing housing allowances goes a long way to get people out of homelessness into housing.

We trust that this much needed additional resource to end homelessness in Toronto will be embraced by Council. Once it is, and the work begins to design its details, we suggest the following be considered:

- An adequate allowance could facilitate the ability of literally thousands of people to leave to shelter system.

- Offer it to everyone experiencing homelessness beyond a certain amount of time as of right, rather than requiring an application from a shelter housing worker.
- Could this, or additional allowances be an adjunct to the rent bank for eviction prevention.
- How to provide long-term rather than short-term housing allowances to those who need them.

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We applaud the City's continuing efforts in finding creative solutions with respect to increasing affordable housing supply and building shelters with the capacity to turn into supportive and permanent housing. Now it's time revisit how we can bridge the affordability gap through various funding options such as the allowance proposed in this motion.

Thank you for your consideration. The Alliance is committed to working with all levels of government, in particular the City to find ways to end homelessness in Toronto.

Sincerely,  
Kira Heineck, Executive Lead TAEH

Daphna Nussbaum  
Solutions Manager, TAEH  
416.789.8749  
[daphna.nussbaum@taeh.ca](mailto:daphna.nussbaum@taeh.ca)

