

**From:** [Brian Davis](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding MM 12.21 - To Create More Supportive Housing in Toronto  
**Date:** November 26, 2019 10:14:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning City Council,

We support this motion calling on the City to ramp up its work to make the commitment to 18,000 new supportive housing units a reality, brought forward by Councillors Cressy and Wong-Tam. This will direct action to actually meet the target of 1,800 built in 2020, as well as the City to include 1/3 of the costs of the full 18,000 at a rate of 1,800 per year in the 2020 budget.

Equally important in today's motion is the call for immediate action to move at least 1,800 people out of shelters and into housing as the building of new, permanent supportive housing takes place. The motion recommends: **“a bridging strategy to move 1,800 households into stable housing while the new build program is being rolled out, including resources required to expand any programs needed to accomplish this such as eviction prevention, housing allowance program streams, and community partnerships.”**

Houselink Community Homes, as a supportive housing provider in Toronto, supports this call from Councillors Cressy and Wong-Tam for focussed action on the City's commitment from last year. It is particularly encouraging to see the call for City leadership by committing its share of 1/3 the costs needed, thereby creating the path for action that the other orders of government will find hard not to follow. Especially as Ontario has responsibility for housing its residents as they cross municipal borders, and the federal government aims to reduce chronic homelessness in half by 2028. They can't do that without concerted effort in Toronto that they must also contribute to.

Supportive housing is one of the key strategies in addressing chronic homelessness specifically, and it will release some pressure in the current shelter system. With 17,000 people in Toronto living with serious and persistent mental health challenges on the wait list for supportive housing, it is clear that an robust supply of new supportive housing is needed and it requires an all of government approach. It also should be an explicit target within the Housing Now initiative.

Warmest regards,

**Brian Davis**

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