



MM12.21.10

Covenant House Toronto

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To Mayor John Tory and Toronto City Councillors:

As a member of The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH), Covenant House Toronto supports Councillor Cressy's and Wong-Tam's motion MM12.21, *Ending Homelessness - Building New Supportive Housing Now - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam.*

Youth are equally in need of new affordable and supported housing options as the adult homeless population, and to this end, our agency supports City Council's commitment to building 18,000 new supportive housing units over the next 10 years. We also strongly support 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.

This includes committing a portion of the City's 2020 budget to the cost of this initiative. This bold act of municipal leadership will put needed pressure on the other levels of government and help create the path for their action and contributions. 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. However, they cannot accomplish this without a concerted effort at the municipal level.

We are not looking for Band-Aid solutions to fight youth homelessness. We recognize that providing shelter is the first step in helping homeless youth move towards independence. Providing those in need with a full range of wraparound supports that focus on mental health, education and job skills is key, in addition to ensuring that affordable long-term housing is available.

We urge City Council to act quickly on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Aston
Executive Director
Covenant House Toronto



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