

From: [Joanne Knutson](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [MARY LOU SHAPIRO](#)
Subject: Support for Motion MM12.21.
Date: November 26, 2019 10:21:59 PM



November 26th, 2019

To Mayor John Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

Habitat Services is writing to voice its strong support for Motion MM12.21 made by Councillors Joe Cressy and Councillor Kristyn Wong Tam for focused action on last year's Council-approved target to create 18,000 supportive housing units in Toronto over the next 10 years.

Habitat Services subsidizes private sector and non-profit supportive housing providers of permanent and transitional supportive housing in the City of Toronto for individuals with serious mental health and substance use issues. Many of the tenants/residents in Habitat funded homes have histories of homelessness and are now stably housed, with a better quality of life. Housing stability is a key social determinant of health, and supportive housing is a key strategy for eliminating homelessness.

With 17,000 individuals with mental health and substance use issues currently on the wait list for supportive housing in the City of Toronto, the time to act is now. The City of Toronto is in a position to take a leadership role in committing 1/3 of the cost of this initiative and to pressing other levels of government to assume their share. We implore you to take this opportunity to work towards the elimination of homelessness in the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,

Joanne Knutson,
Executive Director
Habitat Services

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