

From: [Greg Cook](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: Greg Cook Written Deputation EC25.5
Date: October 21, 2021 4:49:32 PM
Attachments: [Deputation EC 25.5 Greg Cook.pdf](#)

Hi,

Here is my written deputation. Can you post it publicly and put it in the records for the Economic and Community Development Committee for Oct 21. (today)

Thank you, Greg

Deputation for Economic and Community Development Committee (EC 25.5). Oct 21, 2021

Thank you Deputy Mayor for this opportunity to speak. I will primarily be speaking to the Street Needs Assessment Report (SNA). The SNA report states that there are 742 people that are sleeping outdoors as of April, 2021. We know that the number is much higher as the methodology is problematic. As Doug Johnson just outlined in his deputation. SSHA needs to better incorporate the City's own Shelter System Flow data into future SNA reports. If you look at that information it is clear that on average an additional 296 people are being evicted each month and displaced to the shelter system, to City parks and ravines. We also know that the largest increases in evictions at the moment are happening in Etobicoke and Scarborough, this is something that all City Councillors should care about - it isn't a "downtown issue."

My question to this committee is, what will the over 1000 people who have no option but to live outside do this winter?

The last time the Street Needs Assessment was done was 2018. It was done right after the City opened up almost 1000 temporary shelter spaces, including the Moss Park Armouries. Most of these shelter spaces were not planned. In fact I was in the City Council chambers on December 6, 2017 when, on the recommendation of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness, City Council voted against opening up the armouries and the 1,000 additional shelter beds we were demanding. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam had put forward a motion to open the armouries. However, it lost, and instead the City agreed to open 400 spaces. In the last weeks of December of 2017, hospitals reported a spike in frostbite.¹

In the end the City government realized it needed to open the Armoury. Almost 1000 inside spaces were added in total that winter. Most of these were not a part of the original plan.

While some of the problems with the SNA report have been clearly pointed out by other deputants. It is still clear that even if you take the SNA report at face value, there isn't enough space inside for people this winter. The government isn't doing enough.

Please read the SHJN Winter Plan! shjn.ca

Last winter with COVID-19 making things worse, many people got frostbite, people lost limbs, people died. Don't make the same mistake you did in 2017. Please fulfill SHJN's demands.

I was asked by Councillor Ainslie about the warming and cooling centres. Currently, the protocols for opening the warming centres are not grounded in the current scientific literature and they do not reflect the actual needs of people outside. The Winter Plan outlines the evidence for an overhaul of the current system to create an inclement weather system that opens emergency space in cases of cold, snowfall, winter rain, severe rain, and heat (pages 11 and 29).

I want to highlight our key demands.

Winter Plan Key Demands

1. Immediately incorporate 2,250 permanent, non-congregate shelter beds into the system.

¹ <https://thatsatruestory.wordpress.com/2018/01/02/no-vacancy/>; <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/toronto-opens-moss-park-armoury-to-homeless-ahead-of-schedule/article37522384/>

2. Repeal the 'no camping' bylaw.
3. Extend shelter-hotel leases.
4. Increase the target of newly attributed housing allowances in 2021 from 1,440 to 3,000.
5. Freeze all evictions with the emergency powers of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
6. Issue an inclement weather alert when necessary and open inclement weather sites during alerts.
7. Implement COVID-19 indoor air quality safety measures.

<http://www.shjn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Winter-Plan-Final.pdf>

(Key Demands are on Page 2)