



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM31.32	ACTION			Ward: All
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Securing Funding for Supportive Housing in Toronto - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Housing Committee/Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. Council continue to advocate to the Province on Ontario to provide the funding necessary to operate the 1,100 supportive housing units planned to be delivered in 2021 by the City, with the support of the Federal Government.
2. City Council request the City Manager to provide the already-requested comprehensive report to the May 5, 2021 City Council meeting that includes the status of funding secured for supportive housing from the Province of Ontario and options to achieve the City's 2021 and future supportive housing targets.

Summary

Providing supportive housing is essential to ending the homelessness crisis faced by our City. Yet the Province's budget, released on March 24, fails to commit the funding desperately needed in order to address the crisis we are facing.

The City, with the support of the Federal Government, is on track to deliver 1,250 new supportive housing units, which will soon be ready to be occupied by those experiencing homelessness. Of those, 1,100 supportive housing units still require operating funding. The Province is responsible for the operating funding needed to operate these affordable apartments and to provide the on-site wrap around services required by residents. While the provincial budget acknowledges the importance of supportive housing, the money required to actually provide it is completely missing - both the \$26.35 million annually beginning this year for 1,100 new supportive housing opportunities, and a commitment for funding in future years to deliver up to 2,000 new supportive housing units as part of the City's COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Despite the continued strong advocacy from the Mayor and Councillors, time is running out. If the Province doesn't commit to the \$26.35 million annually by May, we won't be able to open

these 1,100 new units. They are desperately needed by Toronto's residents and the City has already secured them using the federal Rapid Housing Initiative and City capital funding. We cannot let them sit empty.

Over the last year the Province acknowledged the urgent need to help those impacted by COVID-19. While the province has provided \$90 million in temporary response funding for 2021, this is far below what is required to fund the City's current shelter response to the pandemic, let alone fund these supportive housing projects on an ongoing basis. What is really needed right now is action and money, not words.

Funding supportive housing is the right thing to do and makes strong financial sense. Every month, approximately 8,000 individuals use our shelter system, including 3,600 people who cannot afford permanent housing, and whose use is chronic. The beds they occupy cost \$6000 a month to fund, whereas only \$2000 per month is needed for a supportive apartment.

Ending chronic homelessness is possible through the provision of supportive housing, but only if all levels of government prioritize housing first, and possess the political will to make it happen.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM31.32