

February 8, 2023

Toronto City Council Via email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca



RE: HL1.6 Cold weather and the effects on those experiencing homelessness -

Please **amend** and **adopt** the agenda item: Zero Waste Hub Toronto echoes the five calls to action from Health Providers Against Poverty, and Shelter and Housing Justice Network;¹ also:

1. Be reminded and immediately remind all City staff that the City must uphold Toronto's **Reconciliation Action Plan, Long Term Waste Management Strategy, circular economy** aims and aspirational **zero waste** goal: immediately cease evictions of encampments, slashing of tents and destruction of people's other property and trucking of it to Green Lane Landfill (which impacts 3+ First Nations communities). The City could improve its credibility, and the perception and receptiveness of people to Toronto's various initiatives' messaging and communications if it upholds and complies with these first.

2. Circulate Toronto's HTO To Go water trailers among parks [and turn on water access at parks, community centres and other civic buildings]. Not doing so is contrary to Council's past orders to staff that have been ignored and left residents and businesses to obtain, transport, and distribute 200K+ single use water bottles since 2020 alone.

3. Create 10,000 permanently deeply affordable adequate housing units in Toronto that are move-in ready and filled in 2023 by those who are the most in need and 90,000 such units within four years. **Reason:** all residents of Toronto have the right to housing and **equitable access** to be able to comply with the **federal single-use plastics ban** and **meaningfully participate** in Toronto's **waste reduction** initiatives and aspirational **zero waste** goal to the degree they are able to, including **having a home to wash and store their reusables in**.

4. Increase funding and supports to Toronto's drop in and other social service and support agencies: they must be able to restore their full staffing and program levels after past and proposed City funding cuts, not to mention obtain, use, collect, wash, and store reusables.

Thank you,

Ms. A. Pope, Coordinator (Volunteer), Toronto, ON M6J 0A8

About Zero Waste Hub Toronto: Zero Waste Hub Toronto (est. 2018) is a grassroots not for profit organization, the founder and organizer of Toronto's first two zero waste fairs (May 2018 and 2019), and works with established local organizations and green groups to help promote waste reduction education, awareness and opportunities and create a zero waste future for Toronto.

¹ <http://www.shjn.ca/homelessness-crisis-open-letter-to-city-council/>