

Wednesday, January 10th, 2023

Toronto and East York Community Council  
City Hall, Committee Room 1  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Council Members,

**RE: Review Of Extreme Weather Supports For Homeless And Under -Housed Individuals**

Members of our communities, faith leaders, outreach workers, and advocates have made requests for the City to open Emergency Warming Centres sooner, in more accessible locations, and for longer hours throughout the winter months. Prolonged exposure to sub-zero temperatures has led to preventable injury, mental distress, and death.

In response, I am requesting that staff undertake a review and propose changes to these policies so that we can accommodate greater flexibility and effectively address the impacts on homeless and under -housed individuals' health and well-being.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

- The Economic and Community Development Committee directs the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to review all policies and procedures related to the opening and operations of Emergency Warming Centres and report back at the April 25, 2023 meeting with recommendations on improvements that can be made including opening centers more proactively and reinvesting in community-outreach programs, such as Out of The Cold, which could reduce the pressures on city facilities.
- The Economic and Community Development Committee directs the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to continue to use their discretion that takes into account all weather conditions when it comes to opening warming centres, not solely predicated on an emergency cold weather alert being issued, while this report is being prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Moise  
City Councillor  
Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

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