

From: [Kizito Musabimana](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Cc: [Alexa Gilmour](#); [Councillor Bravo](#); [Wyndham Bettencourt-McCarthy](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.EC13.8 on May 29, 2024 Economic and Community Development Committee
Date: May 28, 2024 2:06:51 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 29, 2024 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2024.EC13.8, The City's Encampment Approach and Strategy

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Submitted by: Kizito Musabimana Founder & Executive Director, Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre On behalf of The African Canadian Collective (ACC) / The Coalition for Canadian People of African Descent

My name is Kizito Musabimana, and I am the founder and current Executive Director of the Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre. I am also submitting these comments on behalf of The African Canadian Collective (ACC), also known as The Coalition for Canadian People of African Descent. Our coalition was formed in response to the African Migrant and Asylum Seeker Crisis in Toronto and surrounding areas.

I am writing in support of Item 2024.EC13.8, The City's Encampment Approach and Strategy report. As a city, we must lead by example in upholding human rights and dignity for all Torontonians, including unhoused individuals, whether they are Canadian citizens or newcomers to our city and country.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the urgent need for further action to address the encampment crisis in our city. Despite some progress, such as the collaboration with the city to identify sites for the first Black-run shelters and the advancement of wraparound support services, many individuals remain without adequate housing. People are still living outside 129 Peter Street, and numerous groups are continuing to house the unhoused in underserved spaces - such as worship or through costly arrangements like Airbnbs.

While these steps forward are commendable, especially in providing culturally appropriate services and discussing transitional housing programs run by the Black community, the immediate needs of the unhoused population require more substantial support. There is a pressing necessity for enhanced efforts to ensure these individuals can access housing

swiftly and efficiently.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to continued discussions and actions that will further support our city's unhoused populations.

Sincerely,

Kizito Musabimana

Founder & Executive Director, Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre

On behalf of The African Canadian Collective (ACC) / The Coalition for Canadian People of African Descent (CCPAD)

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View my contact details here: <https://blinq.me/MBV8KwB8KvNE>

