

From: [SHJN Toronto](#)
To: [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor Perks](#); [Councillor Bravo](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Councillor Colle8](#); [Councillor McKelvie](#); [Councillor Morley](#); [Executive Committee](#); [Mayor Chow](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Shelter Crisis! 2024.Ex16.11
Date: July 15, 2024 4:19:45 PM

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Executive Committee,

Frontline workers and unhoused residents call for action as extreme heat exacerbates the housing emergency: City must act today to address the dangerous shelter situation.

For the past year while Olivia Chow has been mayor, frontline workers on the ground have essentially been unable to find any shelter beds for anyone in the City of Toronto.

Unhoused people, advocates and workers have been sounding the alarm on the housing emergency for decades and the situation continues to worsen. The City's own program to address homelessness, Streets to Homes, is also at capacity and has been advising agencies they are no longer accepting referrals and are unable to get anyone a shelter bed or housing.

Every night, [hundreds](#) are turned away from Central Intake and many people sleep outside the City's Referral Centre at 129 Peter Street because they can't even get in those doors. With no immediate plan or relief in sight, this situation is untenable. People have absolutely NOWHERE TO GO and no access to essential services, leaving frontline workers at a complete loss of how to help. This situation is deadly and dangerous, something must be done. People cannot wait for shelter in development. We need something opened TODAY. The Executive Committee must ensure real action happens now!

We demand the Executive Committee, Mayor's office and City act immediately to:

1. Open any available city-owned space like community centres or lease private buildings like 311 Sherbourne St. today to provide emergency shelter for people to survive the extreme heat in a housing emergency. Alternatively there are other spaces that are available for the City to rent in the interim to help deal with this situation.
2. Present a plan to increase the immediate capacity for emergency shelter by at least 300-400 spots by August 1, 2024. These spaces must be accessible, follow principles of universal design, and provide humane and dignified living conditions.

3. Open cooling centres today across the city with surge capacity for extreme heat.
4. Implement a moratorium on encampment evictions. There is nowhere for people to go.

The City must act now to ensure people survive this summer.

Greg Cook

on behalf of Shelter Housing Justice Network



Shelter Housing Justice Network

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