

From: [Ejay Tupe](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.EC22.3 on July 9, 2025 Economic and Community Development Committee
Date: July 8, 2025 6:18:32 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 9, 2025 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2025.EC22.3, Highlights of the 2024 Street Needs Assessment and advancing the City's Shelter Infrastructure

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:

Dear Committee,

I'm sharing some insights from friends and clients who are currently experiencing the plight of our overcrowded shelter system. As they are unable to speak on their behalf today due to their underhoused situation necessitating majority of their efforts towards finding whatever meagre shelter situations they can find.

I'd like to implore this committee to strongly consider tiny homes as an option due to two particular factors.

1. We need a diversified approach especially in this crisis moment where a recent Toronto Star article alluded to the doubling of homeless populations from 2021 to 2024. As the infrastructure to create shelters take too much time, we need a more fluid approach to address urgent needs now as I'm certain many other emergency sectors report to people using our emergency rooms, makeshift tents, couchsurfing, etc.. as a means for people to merely survive. There are many reports to how these alternative means are costing the city more through our emergency systems being taxed and tiny homes could be one additional tool that the city can no longer ignore.

2. I'm also suggesting a taskforce to be created to directly involve our underhoused friends to have a voice in finding solutions. As a board member at a city funded AOCC (the Ralph Thornton Community centre), capturing the voices of our marginalized neighbours was crucial to our recent strategic planning session and I led our table discussion where they contributed to the formation of our strategic plan. This posture of inclusion should be a standard of care our city should adopt and I would implore for the voices of our marginalized neighbours to be included in the dialogue rather than decisions made for them without any consultation.

I am slightly tardy in sending this letter and a request to depute today. But I am happy to explain more of the process of inclusive consultation should I be given an opportunity to depute. I can also be prompted by email should I be unable to depute today. Thank you for this consideration.

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