



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Solve the Crisis on Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction

TO: Council Workshop Committee

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date to Committee: N/a

Date to Council: September 17, 2024

Motion for Council to Consider:

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and 375 supportive housing units, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

Whereas there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Therefore, be it resolved that Burlington supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario & Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
- Hon. Vic Fedeli, Chair of Cabinet

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: none

City Manager: none