

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		Attention: Regional Clerk Regional Municipality of Peel 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A Brampton, ON L6T 4B9 Phone: 905-791-7800 ext. 4582 E-mail: council@peelregion.ca	
MEETING DATE YYYY/MM/DD 2023/10/26	MEETING NAME Regional Council		
DATE SUBMITTED YYYY/MM/DD 2023/10/16			
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL(S) Daphna Nussbaum			
POSITION(S)/TITLE(S) Program Coordinator and Analyst			
NAME OF ORGANIZATION(S) Peel Alliance to End Homelessness			
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INDIVIDUAL(S) OR ORGANIZATION(S) ADDRESS 5170 Dixie Road			
REASON(S) FOR DELEGATION REQUEST (SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED) Housing Services Council Items - October 26, 2023			
A formal presentation will accompany my delegation <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Presentation format: <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint File (.ppt) <input type="checkbox"/> Adobe File or Equivalent (.pdf) <input type="checkbox"/> Picture File (.jpg) <input type="checkbox"/> Video File (.avi,.mpg) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/> Additional printed information/materials will be distributed with my delegation : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Attached			

Note:

Delegates are requested to provide an electronic copy of all background material / presentations to the Clerk's Division if possible 72 hours prior to the meeting start time. **Delegation requests and/or materials received after 9:30 a.m. on the Wednesday prior to the meeting will not be provided to Members.**

Delegates should make every effort to ensure their presentation material is prepared in an accessible format. Once the above information is received in the Clerk's Division, you will be contacted by Legislative Services staff to confirm your placement on the appropriate agenda.

In accordance with the Region of Peel Procedure By-law, delegates appearing before Regional Council or Committee are requested to limit their remarks to 5 minutes and 10 minutes respectively (approximately 5/10 slides). Delegations may only appear once on the same matter within a one-year period, unless a recommendation pertaining to the same matter is included on the agenda within the one-year period and only to provide additional or new information.

Notice with Respect to the Collection of Personal Information
(Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

Personal information contained on this form is authorized under Section 5.4 of the Region of Peel Procedure By-law 56-2019, as amended, for the purpose of contacting individuals and/or organizations requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before Regional Council or a Committee of Council. The completed Delegation Request Form will be redacted and published with the public agenda. The Procedure By-law is a requirement of Section 238(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. Please note that all meetings are open to the public except where permitted to be closed to the public under legislated authority. All Regional Council and Committee meetings are live streamed via the internet and meeting videos are posted and available for viewing subsequent to those meetings. Questions about collection may be directed to the Manager of Legislative Services, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, 5th floor, Brampton, ON L6T 4B9, (905) 791-7800 ext. 4462.

October 25, 2023



To: Peel Regional Chair and Members of Council

Re: Letter of Support for Housing Services Reports Presented on October 26 – Item 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4

The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, a collective of homelessness and affordable housing-service providers in Peel working to prevent, reduce and end homelessness in our communities, recognizes how the current level of support services and lack of deeply affordable housing in Peel are impacting people who are surviving without permanent housing and supports.

Throughout the year, Council has received numerous reports with alarming statistics on the rise of homelessness. Currently, there is a 167% rise in encampments, a 300% occupancy in the current shelter system and additional supports only meeting 1% of need. Our system has collapsed.

We appreciate the time and effort Housing Services put into its reports, as well as staff consultations with service providers and service users on ways to improve services and implement solutions in accordance with the Region's 10-year Housing and Homelessness plan. As reflected in many of the recommendations, increased funding will help address homelessness prevention and diversion, enhance support services and create a path to more permanent housing solutions.

Homelessness Policy and Programs Report (Item 8.4)

Many of the recommendations outlined in Housing Services Homelessness Policy and Programs report will help reduce, but not end homelessness. Peel's No Turn Away Policy cannot meet current demand and as the weather changes, the need for temporary indoor accommodation will increase. Therefore, more funding is required to manage the need for shelter and overflow hotels, along with meal programs for those staying in these facilities. We are encouraged to see plans for more drop-in and homelessness respite, as well as implementing place-based outreach programs and removing barriers to shelter use.

We are concerned about the 167% increase of known encampments throughout the Region and it is likely the total number of encampments exceeds the 128 reported. The Region's recommendation to create Encampment Policy and Protocol, which outlines working with local municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure practices across the Region, are aligned with the recent ruling against the City of Waterloo's attempt to evict encampment residents. While this proposed initiative is subject to future budget approval, we recommend that this work commence very soon as it will take awhile to establish this protocol, which involves consultations with various stakeholders and for that reason, our recommendation is that Peel's Encampment and Policy Protocol be in place by December 24, 2024.

Enhancing Housing Subsidy and Supports (item 8.2)

A portable housing subsidy gives a person more agency to find accommodation that suits their needs, as we are learning through the needs-based housing subsidy pilot, led by Housing Services and community-based homelessness agencies. Through this program, 200 individuals and families, youth, seniors and veterans, on Peel's By Name List, are receiving funding up to 130 per cent of market rent for private market rental housing. We support the recommendation for an increased investment in portable subsidies, which will house more people in a shorter amount of time.

We are pleased to see that smaller agencies who typically do not receive housing funding for Peel are included in the report and the recommendations for housing subsidies. These organizations, REST being an example, fill needs-based gaps in the system. We also agree with the recommendation that the Region partner with community-based agencies to provide unlimited support to clients, to help them stay housed and that housing subsidies are delivered directly through community housing providers.

It is important to ensure, however that these smaller agencies receive operational funding, as they cannot run their programs without it and many of them are struggling to stay afloat. We would like to see more funding administered to smaller agencies, so that they can stay consistent in their support for clients.

Rapid Response Temporary Modular Housing (8.3)

We have seen examples of modular housing in different municipalities and studies show how it can provide healthier, safer temporary housing options for the homeless who live outdoors. We appreciate the Region's stakeholder consultation and environmental scans in other jurisdictions and agree that these temporary accommodations cannot become permanent. Should the Region move forward with modular housing at the Surveyor Family Shelter and the Cawthra Road Shelter sites, we agree that structures should be connected to Peel's water and wastewater system and that higher quality units should be the focus. There should also be an exit strategy from these accommodations as they are not long-term housing solutions. What they do provide however is privacy and are safer alternative to living outdoors, in (some cases) shelters and are less expensive than overflow hotels. Modular housing should include common facilities and on-site support as well as access to meals, transportation and utility costs.

We are encouraged by the recommendations outlined in the housing and homeless service reports, as they reflect the changing needs of the community as well as immediate needs and long-term goals. We know how difficult it is to carry this out with limited resources, especially in the wake of Peel's transition (Bill-112, the Hazel McCallion Act). But just like everything else in Peel, we need to keep moving and ensure that those with the highest housing needs have access to housing and supports that meet their needs.

The PAEH has pledged to work with the Region in support of its advocacy efforts to influence policy and program change and to secure significantly more funding from federal and provincial government. We also look forward to continuing to work with the Housing Services on program development and implementation, as well as our continued application of coordinated access.

Thank you,



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