

November 20, 2023

Sent by email

Jannies Le, Executive Director
Samiya Kebir, Program Supervisor
Rashmi Khosla, Board President
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A. Adams, Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of Peel
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Re: Transitional Housing to Support Women Fleeing Violence

The following recommendation of the Committee of Council Meeting of October 25, 2023 was approved by Council on November 1, 2023, pursuant to Resolution C258-2023:

CW373-2023

Whereas:

- Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has been declared an epidemic by the City of Brampton, Region of Peel and AMO, alongside dozens of other municipalities across the province and country; and
- Peel Regional Police reported that they responded to more than 17,000 incidents of family and intimate partner violence in 2021 which equates to two disputes every hour; and
- The affordable housing crisis in Canada is a detrimental barrier for survivors to leave their abusers which is forcing them (predominantly women and their children), to risk their safety every day, by choosing between homelessness or ongoing abuse; and
- Second stage housing also known as Transitional Shelters/Housing is an integral aspect of the continuum of supports for IPV survivors and their children, providing them with wraparound support and the time and space to heal, prepare for the future, and achieve independence, and is proven to be an effective pathway for women and their children to escape violence and find permanent housing; and
- A funding gap exists in Ontario whereby the Provincial Government does not currently fund transitional housing; and

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

- Because of this funding gap, the Region of Peel has been supporting transitional shelters/housing like Armagh house, which is based in Mississauga; and
- The Region of Peel Council on Thursday, October 26 will be discussing agenda items 8.2 – 8.4 relating to Housing Subsidies, Rapid Response Modular Housing, and Homelessness Policy and Programs; and
- Armagh House has indicated that over 50% of their clients serviced at the Mississauga shelter are Brampton residents; and
- Armagh House is implementing a new model of delivery of 12 units set to launch in January 2024, for transitional housing with vital wraparound support in collaboration with a private developer in Brampton; and
- The Region of Peel has indicated commitments to rent subsidy and some program support for the Armagh House pilot in Brampton, but a funding gap still exists to deliver the program to include the necessary wraparound support consistent with the existing shelter in Mississauga; and
- This new model of transitional housing provided by Armagh costs less than other short-term options such as hotels or building a completely new shelter.

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. The delegation from Jannies Le, Executive Director, Samiya Kebir, Program Supervisor, and Rashmi Khosla, Board President, Armagh, re: **Item 9.3.3 - Transitional Housing to Support Women Fleeing Violence**, be **referred** to staff for further consideration, and investigation of potential alignment of transitional housing under provincial and federal housing-related funding sources, on an emergency basis;
2. The City of Brampton forward this motion to, and advocate at the Region of Peel for, support of Armagh House's housing pilot in Brampton, to ensure its delivery with corresponding wraparound support during the Region's transition period of dissolution;
3. The Mayor, on behalf of Council, write a letter to the Provincial Government (Premier, Minister of Housing, Minister of Community and Social Services, and Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, and all local Brampton MPPs) that transitional housing such as that provided by Armagh House with its necessary wraparound supports, be included as an important piece in building affordable housing that should be financially supported by the province, especially for women escaping domestic violence; and

4. The Mayor, on behalf of Council, write a letter to the Federal Government (Prime Minister, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, and all local Brampton MPs) to financially support transitional housing and specifically Armagh House's pilot model in Brampton.

By copy of this correspondence to S. Ganesh, Commissioner, Planning, Building and Growth Management, he is requested to carry out the direction in the Recommendation above. Item **RM 70/2023** has been added to the Referred Matters List for this matter.

By copy of this correspondence to the Office of the Mayor they are requested to carry out the direction outlined in clauses 3 and 4 of the Recommendation above. Please provide a copy of the final letters to the City Clerk's Office for our records.

Yours truly,

Sonya Pacheco

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(CW – 6.4)

cc: Mayor and Members of Council
G. Collins, Director of Communications, Office of the Mayor
S. Ganesh, Commissioner, Planning, Building and Growth Management
H. Zbogor, Director, Integrated City Planning, Planning, Building and Growth Management
B. Boyes, Commissioner, Community Services, and Acting Fire Chief
R. Said, Manager, Community Safety and Well-Being, Community Services