



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final Executive Committee

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

For Consideration by General Committee on September 10, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, A. Nuttall at 5:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 6 - Mayor A. Nuttall
Deputy Mayor R. Thomson
Councillor C. Nixon
Councillor J. Harris
Councillor S. Morales
Councillor B. Hamilton

Absent: 1 - Councillor G. Harvey

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor, C. Riepma
Councillor, AM. Kungl
Councillor, A. Courser
Councillor, N. Nigussie

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse
Chief Building Official, P. Evans
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke
Deputy City Clerk, T. Macdonald
Director of Finance, C. Smith
Director of Information Technology, R. Nolan
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters
Executive Director of Development Services, M. Banfield
General Manager of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, J. Schmidt
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, B. Araniyasundaran
Legal Counsel, C. Packham
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Coordinator, E. Chappell
Service Desk Specialist, M. Burry

Service Desk Specialist, M. Haupt

The Executive Committee met and reports as follows:

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

ENCAMPMENTS

The memorandum from M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer dated August 13, 2025 regarding the Homeless Encampment near Anne and John Streets was circulated to members of Committee and Council.

Members of Committee and Council asked the following questions:

1. Councillor, C. Riepma asked if the lands in question are owned by the City and if there is an estimated cost for the clean-up.

Mayor Nuttall confirmed that the lands are in the possession of the City. M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer advised that there is no estimate on clean-up costs and currently is unsure if funding is available through the Province to assist.

2. Councillor, B. Hamilton questioned how the City can prevent a similar situation from happening in the future, why it was able to continue for so long and the City's role moving forward.

M. Prowse advised that the City was aware of the situation and that when dealing with encampments there is legislation and Superior Court decisions that must be followed. The City needs to ensure adequate housing is available through the City's service manager, the County of Simcoe, to accommodate individuals. M. Prowse advised that this situation was different as it was subject to a police investigation.

He advised given the situation the County was able to resource adequate accommodation for the individuals in the encampment and advised that to date there are about 6 individuals who have accepted the housing and services. He advised that some individuals are not able or willing to accept services offered.

M. Prowse confirmed that the Health Unit was contacted but did not attend the site. He confirmed that the Ministry of the Environment attended the site and advised that it was unsafe for individuals to reside there. Due to the emergency order, the service manager was able to access resources to accommodate the unhoused. The City has activated 29 Sperling Drive as an emergency rest area, and the service manager has activated their Tiffin site as a rest area.

3. Councillor, S. Morales asked M. Prowse to clarify what he meant by the County lacks money assistance. Councillor, S. Morales also shared his concerns regarding the propane tanks located at the site.

M. Prowse advised that he was speaking in the absence of the County at the meeting and that there is a lack of funding available for the County to provide the services needed.

4. Councillor, J. Harris asked why the health unit did not respond or attend the site?

M. Prowse advised that the health unit did request that videos and drone footage of the site be sent to them to be examined. R. James, Reid, General Manager of Access Barrie, advised that the health unit indicated they wanted to wait until the Ministry of the Environment attended the site and would speak to their inspector regarding the situation.

5. Councillor, J. Harris asked how the City's response to this encampment differed than the response to the Berczy Park encampment.

M. Prowse indicated that the Berczy Park encampment clean up was initiated by the City and that the City triages the encampments in the City using a variety of criteria including items such as proximity to schools and open parks as well as size of encampments. Mr. Prowse indicated the Berczy Park encampment was smaller and the County was able to provide sufficient housing and services.

6. Councillor, J. Harris asked if the site was a hot spot for police based on calls for service.

M. Prowse indicated he does not believe it was a hot spot for the police and was not a hot spot from the City's perspective.

7. Councillor, J. Harris questioned if other areas have dealt with an encampment situation involving the Ministry of the Environment.

M. Prowse advised he believes it is a unique situation.

8. Mayor, A. Nuttall asked how many tests of the water have been done by the Health Unit at City beaches, and how many were done at the encampment site? He asked where the water from the encampment site drains into?

R. James-Reid advised that the sampling is done daily and the City receives any beach closure notices from the Health Unit. M. Prowse advised that to his knowledge no water testing has been done at the encampment site to date, and that the water drains into Kempenfelt

Bay. M. Prowse advised that beach closures have been happening due to high levels of E. Coli in the water.

9. Councillor, AM. Kungl asked how many wellheads were located in the encampment area?

M. Prowse advised that there were no active wellheads in the location, but that staff can provide a list to make sure there are no encampments near active wellheads.

10. Councillor, B. Hamilton asked if there was a possibility to approach other encampments, why there was little uptake, and do the public health laws and other laws supersede the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

R. James-Reid advised that currently the County service providers are going to the encampments and encouraging people to seek shelter space and services. She noted that why there was little uptake would be that the City is just currently managing the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN