



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MEMORANDUM

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TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

WARD: ALL

NOTED: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: STATUS UPDATE – OPTIONS TO ADDRESS CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

DATE: May 29, 2024.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with updates related to resolution 23-A-052 concerning Options to Address Chronic Homelessness in the City which was adopted by City Council on May 17, 2023.

The resolution identified a number of actions/options that the Chief Administrative Officer was to consider or utilize. The following chart outlines the status of the actions/options:

Action	Status	Additional Comments	Costs and Commitments
Request funding from the Province of Ontario for			
i) additional financial support for the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic to provide more beds and to increase the hours of operation; and	Complete	Letter from Mayor Nuttall sent to Minister Tibollo on June 6, 2023, addressing both matters. In addition, there was a meeting with Minister Tibollo at the AMO Conference where the Minister requested to come to Barrie for further meetings with the City and community partners.	
ii) for a similar organization that provides long-term counselling and treatment	Complete	A follow up letter from Mayor Nuttall was sent to Minister Tibollo on September 25, 2023, outlining the issues, and requesting a meeting. On Saturday May 4, 2024 Minister Tibollo was in Barrie to kick off the Farmers Market Wellness Fair in acknowledgement of Mental Health Awareness Month.	
Approve funding for the following:			
i) a Family Re-unification Fund to pay for the transportation costs and help re-unite	Complete	Elizabeth Fry Society and John Howard Society each received a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 on July 18, 2023, as noted in a previous update. The	\$20,000



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<p>individuals with families or support groups.</p>		<p>organizations have indicated that they have helped reconnect and transport 68 individuals to their home communities where they have support.</p>	
	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Financial assistance in the amount of \$5,000 was provided to the local organization No More Starving Artists to provide approximately 60 nutritious food orders to those in need.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>ii) the operation of a shuttle service for individuals released from the Central North Correctional Centre;</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The shuttle pilot in collaboration with the Ministry of Solicitor General was launched September 11, 2023.</p> <p>Since working with staff at the CNCC and launching the service, City staff have developed a better understanding of the process and have adjusted the service model. The shuttle service will continue to run Monday to Saturday each week, but have brought the service in house, utilizing part-time staff instead of the transit service provider. With this model, the City will still be able to provide the same level of service but provides more flexibility. Staff will continue the pilot for the duration of 2024 and will include an intake form for Council's consideration for 2025 budget.</p>	<p>\$300,000</p>
<p>iii) a Cooling and Warming Centre for at-risk individuals and the provision of daily meal programs that are currently being offered on public lands and in public parks over multiple years.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The City committed to providing the County as the service manager and lead responsible for homelessness prevention services with \$100,000 towards the operation of cooling and warming programs in the City of Barrie.</p> <p>The County was advised of the potential for 29 Sperling to be made available for a warming/cooling centre and food distribution centre as well as the then existing lease of a portion of</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>



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		<p>the building to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit until December 31, 2023.</p> <p>The County staff indicated that they would advise any interested parties of the site if they presented a proposal without a location or required alternate locations.</p> <p>Subsequently, Council identified that 29 and 35 Sperling would be sold after it was rezoned to its highest and best use.</p> <p>The County of Simcoe issued calls for proposals for potential proponents of both cooling and warming centres.</p> <p>The Gilbert Centre was awarded a contract for the operation of the first seasonal cooling centre in Barrie during the summer of 2023. The winter daytime Warming Centre is located at The Gilbert Centre - 80 Bradford St. For those seeking shelter overnight, 20 Rose Street was open from 5 p.m. to 11 a.m. every day, November 15, 2023, until April 30, 2024.</p>	
iv) to the Salvation Army or a similar organization to support a lunch program; and	Complete	As noted in the September update, \$5,000 was provided to assist the Salvation Army in addressing the deficit that resulted from its additional services during COVID-19.	\$5,000
v) for food security programs through local agencies to reduce the needs associated with panhandling	Complete	The City committed \$50,000 to the Social and Community Invest Fund (SCIF) administered by the County of Simcoe to be used towards programs supporting food security within the City of Barrie.	\$50,000
Request permanent funding from the Province of Ontario and the County of Simcoe for the County of Simcoe's mobile	Pending	The County has determined that the pilot has been successful. The County has allocated funding for the continuation of the mobile alternative security/outreach	



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<p>outreach pilot program in downtown Barrie, if deemed to be successful by the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe</p>		<p>services. The City has offered to send a letter to the Province to provide for permanent funding, if necessary.</p>	
<p>Changes to the City's By-laws, protocols, and processes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) prohibit the use or distribution of tents or tarps in public parks or on public lands without a permit; ii) prohibit the distribution of food and grocery products in public spaces without the use of a permit; and iii) reduce the time required to address camping in parks and storage of goods in parks or public spaces 	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>	<p>Potential by-law amendments were presented for City Council. Those amendments were not adopted, and the by-laws were referred back to staff for modernization. The by-laws are being reviewed in the context of other municipalities by-laws and language. Staff are completing changes to the by- laws to modernize/clarify the existing the language without adding new restrictions and will present that Staff Report during the fall session of Council.</p> <p>Staff are completing changes to the by- laws to modernize/clarify the existing language without adding new restrictions and will present that Staff Report during the fall session of Council.</p> <p>The protocols and practices have been modified to address Council's direction to the extent feasible, in light of the two Ontario court decisions related to removal of encampments. Each situation is addressed on a case-by-case basis in the context of these court decisions.</p>	
<p>Methods to prohibit the payment to panhandlers on City Streets, intersections, and highway ramps</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Staff investigated potential methods including legal options that may be available to Council as part of a by-law. A legal opinion was received and presented to council by Confidential Staff Report on February 7, 2024. In accordance with motion 24-G-020, no further action is being undertaken.</p>	
<p>The placement of signs on City off-ramps to discourage panhandling or financial support thereof</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>In accordance with motion 24-G-020, no further action is being undertaken.</p>	



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and encouraging donations to local social service agencies			
Work with the County of Simcoe and Province of Ontario on ways to build more supportive housing for community members experiencing adverse mental health or addictions	In progress	<p>On November 1, 2023, the County of Simcoe issued a call for proposals from municipalities in the County and the two separated cities, for affordable housing partnerships. In accordance with motion 24-G-021, a response to the County's call for proposals was submitted.</p> <p>City Council at the August 16, 2023, meeting identified several parcels of City-owned land for possible sale.</p> <p>It is expected that this additional land supply could help create additional housing to help to address the housing crisis in Barrie.</p>	
Appeal to the County of Simcoe for funding to help individuals transition from unemployment to employment through training opportunities	Complete	As noted in previous updates, County staff have sought opportunities to include the Chamber of Commerce in discussions related to employment training and options for support of the Life Stabilization Programming.	
Schedule a public meeting to be held at the Community Safety Committee regarding the chronic homelessness, addictions and mental health supports in the City of Barrie	Complete	A Public Meeting of the Community Safety Committee was held on September 19, 2023, to review actions taken to date.	
Have staff apply for any provincial or federal funding opportunities available to support the options outlined this motion	In progress	Staff will apply for any funding opportunities, as they arise. As the County is the service manager designated by the province, opportunities for the City itself to apply may be limited.	
That funding of up to \$825,000 per annum for 2 years from the Re-	In progress	The Chief Administrative Officer is allocating funding for the actions	



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Investment Reserve be made available to fund any of the options detailed in paragraph 1 that are undertaken, as required		identified above from the \$825,000 allocation.	
That, if necessary, the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to waive the City's purchasing by-law to award any items or services required to undertake the options listed in paragraph 1	N/A	At this time, this has not been required.	
That the Chief Administrative Officer provide quarterly updates to the Community Safety Committee regarding the effectiveness of the options that are undertaken as part of this motion	Confidential Staff Report provided	This memorandum serves as the last report.	
Total Cost + Commitments			\$480,000