



**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: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

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
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  ii) for a similar organization that provides long-term counselling and treatment	Complete          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.
Approve funding for the following:  i) a Family Re-unification Fund to pay for the transportation costs and help re-unite individuals with families or support groups.	Complete	Elizabeth Fry Society and John Howard Society each received a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 on July 18, 2023. Both organizations indicated that funding in the amount of \$10,000 each, would allow them to help bridge the gap for individuals seeking to reunify with their families or support group by assisting with transportation costs.



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<p>ii) the operation of a shuttle service for individuals released from the Central North Correctional Centre;</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The six-month shuttle pilot in collaboration with the Ministry of Solicitor General was launched September 11, 2023.</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 County of Simcoe and the City of Barrie partnered to provide funding for the operations of the first municipally-funded cooling centre in Barrie. The Gilbert Centre was awarded the contract for the operation of a seasonal cooling centre for unhoused residents. The Gilbert Centre cooling centre officially started its operations on July 24th, 2023. It operates from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily until mid-September 2023.</p> <p>The RFP issued by the County for warming centre operations for winter 2023/2024 resulted in no proposals received specific to the scope of the RFP, that being for the operation of day and overnight warming services.</p> <p>Given the critical importance of warming operations for the coming winter, the County is implementing an Alternative Spaces Activation Strategy with funded homeless shelter providers. This strategy will identify the capacity of alternate spaces at each shelter where individuals can come in from the cold when shelter beds are full. Through a significant increase to provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding in late spring 2023, the County increased funding to homeless shelters, enabling 24 hour/day, 7 day/week operations.</p> <p>The County is also in the process of securing an agreement for warming services in the City of Barrie to further expand options</p>



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<p>iv) to the Salvation Army or a similar organization to support a lunch program; and</p> <p>v) for food security programs through local agencies to reduce the needs associated with panhandling</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>for access to warm spaces this winter.</p> <p>The temporary shelter/overnight respite facility funded by both the City and the County at 20 Rose Street was also available during the summer for drop-in services. A recent consultation with funded community partners throughout the County, identified the importance of activating the 20 Rose Street site as a temporary shelter during winter 2023/2024. The County is engaged with these partners to secure an operator for this location to allow 20 Rose St. to resume operations as a temporary shelter. The City of Barrie will once again partner in the funding for warming centre operations in Barrie utilizing a portion of the funds identified in the direct motion.</p> <p>Staff are discussing possible initiatives around participating in seasonal events such as Thanksgiving dinner and the Christmas toy drive. The Salvation Army generously provided hundreds of thousands of meals in Barrie (in addition to their normal sheltering, meal services, social and emergency services) during the COVID-19 pandemic at a significant cost to this charity. The City will provide \$5,000 to assist the Salvation Army in addressing the deficit that resulted from this additional service.</p> <p>An allocation of the funds identified in the direct motion will be provided to Simcoe County's Social and Community Investment Fund to support local food security programs.</p>
<p>Request permanent funding from the Province of Ontario and the</p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>Pending completion of the of the pilot in September 2023, the</p>



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<p>County of Simcoe for the County of Simcoe's mobile outreach pilot program in downtown Barrie, if deemed to be successful by the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe</p>		<p>County of Simcoe and City of Barrie will meet to discuss feedback from the community to determine if the pilot was successful. If the pilot is deemed to have been successful, a request will be made to the Province and the County for the mobile outreach program to be funded on a permanent basis.</p>
<p>Changes to the City's By-laws, protocols, and processes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) prohibit the use or distribution of tents or tarps in public parks or on public lands without a permit;</li> <li>ii) prohibit the distribution of food and grocery products in public spaces without the use of a permit; and</li> <li>iii) reduce the time required to address camping in parks and storage of goods in parks or public spaces</li> </ul>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>Potential by-law amendments were presented for City Council and have been referred back to staff to modernize the language. The by-laws are being reviewed in the context of other municipalities by-laws and language updated.</p> <p>Potential by-law amendments were presented for City Council and have been referred back to staff to modernize the language. The by-laws are being reviewed in the context of other municipalities by-laws and language updated.</p> <p>The protocols and practices have been modified to address Council's direction.</p>
<p>Methods to prohibit the payment to panhandlers on City Streets, intersections, and highway ramps</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Staff are investigating potential methods including legal options that may be available to Council as part of a by-law.</p> <p>Staff are working on intersection improvements incorporating a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) perspective to address the safety issues for drivers and those soliciting from roadways.</p>
<p>The placement of signs on City off-ramps to discourage panhandling or financial support thereof and encouraging</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Signs will be placed on City off-ramps to discourage panhandling or financial support thereof and encouraging</p>



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<p>donations to local social service agencies</p>		<p>donations to local social service agencies.</p> <p>An education campaign will be launched in late September to encourage residents to give money to organizations instead of panhandlers.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Meetings continue with the County of Simcoe to discuss opportunities to collaborate on additional supportive housing builds. The City is continuing to review opportunities to collaborate and/or support the development of additional supportive housing.</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>
<p>Appeal to the County of Simcoe for funding to help individuals transition from unemployment to employment through training opportunities</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Subsequent to the meeting held June 5, 2023, with the County of Simcoe, 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 to discuss opportunities.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>A Public Meeting of the Community Safety Committee is scheduled for September 19, 2023 to review actions taken to date.</p>



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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 that become available, 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-Investment Reserve be made available to fund any of the options detailed in paragraph 1 that are undertaken, as required	In progress	The Chief Administrative Officer is allocating funding for the actions 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	1 <sup>st</sup> quarterly report provided	This memorandum serves as the second quarterly report. The status and effectiveness of the options will be reviewed and reported on in future memorandums.