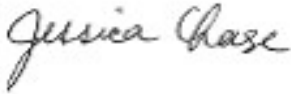




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	November 1, 2022
SUBJECT:	Winding down COVID-19 Overflow Hotel Shelter Services (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Acting General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

Hamilton began funding and operating various COVID-19 overflow shelter spaces in 2020. The operation of spaces fluctuated in keeping with the demands of the pandemic and in accordance with the Public Health Guidance of the time. These services were supported by temporary provincial and federal COVID-19 relief funding.

In August, City Council approved a planned Adaptation and Transformation of Hamilton's Emergency Shelter system directing \$5.4 million in interim investments toward the gradual and cautious return to a sustainable level of resources for Hamilton's homelessness-serving system over the next 18 months. Part of this plan determined a gradual and safe decommissioning of overflow hotel spaces by December 31, 2022. This specifically relates to the temporary hotel overflow operations at the east-end hotel. **To facilitate this change, new admissions to the hotel overflow program will cease effective November 1, 2022.**

This transition period between now and December 31 will enable homelessness-serving partners and City of Hamilton staff to work collaboratively on a housing-focused case management plan for existing hotel overflow residents. During this time, hotel overflow staff will lead concentrated efforts to work toward positive discharges for residents.

We understand this is a challenging situation which may cause pressure on our remaining shelter capacity. However, we remain committed to continuing our ongoing work of assessing updated capacity needs within the emergency shelter system and exploring all potential options to address overall pressures.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

There remains a significant need and priority to align provincial health and housing and homelessness investments to provide permanent housing with support for chronically homeless individuals with complex health, mental health and addiction needs living in shelters and encampments.

Further work is underway with partners in both housing and health sectors to determine sustainable ways to meet ongoing needs within the housing and homelessness system.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen unprecedented need within the overall homelessness serving system. We have also seen our community partners within this system work collaboratively, creatively, and with immense dedication to serve the needs of our clientele. We thank our partners for their ongoing work, commitment and support in managing this shift in service.

For questions related to shelter system and system capacity please contact Michelle Baird, Director Housing Services (Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca).

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