



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Council
DATE:	December 12, 2023
SUBJECT:	Housing Secretariat's Website Launch
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City-wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Justin Lewis, Director Housing Secretariat Division Healthy & Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Members of Council that the Housing Secretariat is expected to launch its webpage, www.hamilton.ca/housingsecretariat on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

As presented to the General Issues Committee on November 15, 2023, the Housing Secretariat's webpage will be dedicated to fostering effective and transparent communication between the Housing Secretariat and the residents of the City of Hamilton. The webpage will provide a single source of information for the Housing Secretariat and our initiatives. It will offer a single intake application process for the Affordable Housing Development Project Stream, the Community Partnership Action Table, and a conduit for Developers and Investors interested in engaging with the City of Hamilton on shared goals.

Previously many inquiries were directed to City staff, as well as your Offices from non-profit and charitable organizations proposing affordable housing projects, developers and investors expressing interest in contributing to address the housing crisis, and citizens eager to participate in the process. The Housing Secretariat's webpage will focus on a clear process for the City of Hamilton to collect this information and begin to work in an organized way to address this challenge in our community.

Key Features of the www.hamilton.ca/housingsecretariat webpage:

- 1. The Affordable Housing Development Project Stream Application:** The creation of the Development Project Stream is to organize new affordable housing construction projects on an annual basis to meet the objectives set out in the Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap, the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, and through the established Council Priorities. The Project Stream will also provide a clearer and more transparent process in our

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funding allocation decisions, which will satisfy requests for the City to have a more streamlined process so that all potential affordable housing developers have an equal opportunity to pursue available funding. Non-profit and charitable organizations will be able to apply for the Affordable Housing Development Project Stream through an online application process directly on the website.

2. **Promoting Community Engagement:** The website will feature an opportunity for Hamilton community members to apply for membership of the Community Partnership Action Table to contribute their experiences in support of the four pillars of the Housing Secretariat's Roadmap.
3. **Invitation for Developers and Investors to Contribute to the Affordable Housing Landscape:** Through an online application process, interested Developers and Investors in the community will be able to submit an expression of interest to collaborate with the Housing Secretariat in reshaping the landscape of affordable housing. The open application will provide an avenue for Developers and Investors to submit their ideas for the Housing Secretariat to consider, whether this be a proposed development, or an investment made to the City of Hamilton to contribute to affordable housing.

Investing in housing initiatives in Hamilton aligns with the City's vision to eliminate or reduce homelessness, reduce the waitlist for social housing, and create affordable housing. It is one of the City of Hamilton's key priorities and is clearly outlined in the Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap (HSIR).

As a next step, Housing Secretariat staff will be contacting the lengthy list of stakeholders and community members who have reached out to express interest in working with the City of Hamilton on affordable housing opportunities and solutions.

We value your input and invite City Council Members to explore the website, provide feedback, and promote this webpage through your communication channels. Together, we can continue to improve and tailor this communication platform to better serve the needs of our community.

Please contact Justin Lewis, Director, Housing Secretariat with any questions or comments or to set up a meeting to discuss the Housing Secretariat's website at Justin.Lewis@hamilton.ca

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