




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	July 30, 2025
SUBJECT:	Short-Term Rental Enforcement Funding (STREF) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Dan Smith Acting Director, Licensing and Bylaw Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise the Mayor and Members of Council of the approval of \$1,531,390 in grant funding through the federal government's Short-Term Rental Enforcement Fund (STREF).

In 2023, the Government of Canada created the Short-Term Rental Enforcement Fund (STREF), which dedicated \$50 million in funding to Canadian municipalities over three (3) years, starting in 2024-2025. The program provides grant funding to municipalities with existing regulatory regimes to support the local enforcement of short-term rental restrictions in an effort to make more long-term housing units available in Canada.

In January 2025, Licensing & By-law Services submitted a grant proposal for the Short-Term Rental Enforcement Fund through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). In March 2025, staff were advised that the proposal was successful and that the City of Hamilton was selected to participate in the Short-Term Rental Enforcement Funding Program. Licensing & By-law Services will be in receipt of a total grant of \$1,531,390 beginning in April 2025 and ending in March 2027.

This is an opportunity for enhancement of the enforcement of short-term rentals (STRs) in Hamilton, under Schedule 32 of the City of Hamilton Licensing By-law No. 07-170.

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.

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Funding will be used to support eligible activities as identified by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC), including but not limited to:

- Hiring and training of five temporary full-time staff (5 FTE) and related expenses to facilitate community education, complaint intake and action, licensing and enforcement activities such as licence issuance, penalties, fines and legal action.
- Procuring software and digital tools that assist in gathering investigative data by utilizing new features and database algorithms which enhance enforcement efforts and provide increased access to data and rental location information.

Staff are required to report annually to Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) on several pre-determined key performance indicators (KPIs) during the term of funding.

Staff will communicate outcomes of the program and any potential next steps to Council in Q3 of 2026.

If you have any questions respecting this communication, please contact Dan Smith, Acting Director, Licensing and By-law Services, by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6435 or by email at Daniel.Smith@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not applicable