



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members of City Council
DATE:	December 16, 2025
SUBJECT:	Update Regarding 2025-2026 Winter Response Strategy
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Baird Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	<i>Michelle Baird</i>

This communication update provides Council with an update to the current 2025-2026 Winter Response Strategy, beginning December 19, 2025.

INFORMATION

As a part of the annual response, the following Winter Response Operations commenced on December 1, 2025:

- Mission Services Night Link- 25 evening warming spaces for people of all genders. Hours of operation: 5:30 pm to 11 pm, 7 days a week
- Mission Services Willow's Place- 45 overnight warming spaces for women & gender diverse individuals: Hours of operation: 9 pm to 9 am, 7 days a week
- YWCA Carole Anne's Place (CAP)- 35 overnight drop-in spaces for women & gender diverse individuals: Hours of operation: 6 pm to 1 pm, 7 days a week

In addition to the above supports, **as of** December 19, 2025 from 11pm through 9am daily, St. Matthew's House will operate a men's overnight warming space at Hamilton Urban Core's St. Paul's Church location.

Background

On September 13, 2023 Council approved that staff implement an annual Winter Response Strategy, from December 1 to March 31, through Emergency & Community Services report HSC23012(a) to support vulnerable individuals within the homelessness serving system.

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The City's Winter Response Strategy began in 2023 and has continued to operate on annual basis since then. It aims to provide a more effective response to the community's needs, specifically for individuals living unhoused.

Next Steps

Information on the Annual Winter Response Strategy will be distributed widely through support of the City's Communications department to community agencies supporting vulnerable residents, and will be detailed on the City of Hamilton's website at the following page: www.hamilton.ca/WinterResponse

For more information, please contact Danielle Blake, Manager Housing Focused Street Outreach, Housing Services Division at Danielle.Blake@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 ext. 3731.

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.