

November 30, 2021

Council Report S 151/2021

Item No: 8.2 Windsor Essex 2021 homelessness Enumeration Report

Comments from the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee

This report was sent to the committee for comments and suggestions. Members verbally supported the report and supporting documentation and will discuss further at their January 2022 meeting. However, as the chair of HHAC, I felt it necessary to forward preliminary remarks from members including myself to the Community Services & Parks Standing Committee.

Since, the city is required to conduct a Point in Time Count every two years, members of HHAC have taken part in the initial count in 2018 and many of us found it to be an eye-opening experience. The Data collected over the past few years has assisted our community to shape responses and work to provide services identified by people experiencing homelessness within Windsor Essex. The data for 2021 shows a significant increase since 2018 with more single people and double the families identifying themselves as homeless on that given night.

From the data collected in 2018, the city and its partners created and implemented the By-Names Prioritized List. This has created a centralized list which assists in planning the services that are needed and most importantly allows staff to know people on the list and can therefore create the support they need that will allow them to maintain their housing unit.

Page 7 of the report clearly identifies the success of this By-Names Prioritized list as out of the 157 people who responded to the survey 86 of them were already on the BNPL list. This shows that Windsor excels in identifying, engaging and meeting the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness in Windsor Essex. Of course, it is a given what it will take to end homelessness across our country and in our Windsor Essex community. We need to create both new built affordable units and/or the creation of various other models of housing units e.g., Secondary suites, Tiny Houses & Module units. We also know that Supports for homeless people is crucial if they are to maintain their unit.

HHAC members look forward to reviewing both reports and the accompanying document "Best and Promising Practices Review" in 2022. This report identifies some solutions that will speed up the process of acquiring and building new units.

Thank you,

Marina Clemens, Chair HHAC