

ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO HOUSING AND HOUSELESSNESS EMERGENCY

Recommendation

That _____ be appointed as Council’s representative on the Housing and Houselessness Task Force for a term ending October 19, 2025, as described in Attachment 1 of the January 30, 2024, Office of the City Manager report OCM02332.

Requested Action	Decision		
ConnectEdmonton’s Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	Healthy City		
City Plan Values	BELONG. LIVE.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council’s Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety and Well-Being • Housing and Houselessness Emergency 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 30, 2023, CS01661 Edmonton's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness - Lessons Learned • November 1, 2023, CS01881 Enhanced Encampment and Unsheltered Homelessness Response Plan - Recommended Next Steps • November 1, 2023, CS01752 Indigenous Housing Grant Program - Fall 2023 Grant Award Recommendations • November 1, 2023, CS01753 Affordable Housing Investment Program - Fall 2023 Grant Award • November 1, 2023, CS01798 Indigenous-led Supportive Housing Projects • January 16, 2024, CS01673, Updated Affordable Housing Strategy • January 17, 2024, MO02326, Housing and Homelessness - Verbal report 		

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Previous Council/Committee Action

At the January 15, 2024, Special City Council meeting, the following motion was made:

3. That Administration establish a task force, led by Mayor, City Manager and an appointed member of Council, consisting of community leaders with a mandate to mobilize all sectors, expedite red tape reduction related to housing and houselessness, and allocate \$3.5 million from the Community Safety and Well-being Reserve unallocated funding to act as seed money to fund innovative solutions and attract additional sources of funding.
5. That Administration provide a verbal report with a list of immediate actions that Administration can take, including but not limited to options such as the provision of City-owned land to service providers able to immediately increase the number of Indigenous-led transitional spaces in Edmonton, and existing recommended actions that can be expedited.

REPORT

At the January 15, 2024 Special City Council meeting, Council declared a Housing and Houselessness emergency. Council directed Administration to establish a multi-sector Housing and Houselessness Task Force and to provide a list of actions (provided as Attachment 1) which could accelerate a supply of housing reflective of Edmonton's needs. To inform the development of the Housing and Houselessness Task Force Terms of Reference, Administration requests that Council appoint its representative at the February 21/23, 2024 City Council meeting.

Budget/Financial, Legal and GBA+ Implications

Recognizing urgency, Administration focused its efforts on information gathering and expediency. Should Council direct Administration to proceed further with the options listed in Attachment 1, Administration will complete financial analysis, legal analysis and GBA+ through subsequent Council and Committee reports.

Community Insight

CS01673 Updated Affordable Housing Strategy Council Report, presented at the January 15, 2024 Community Public Services Committee meeting, reviews the formal public engagement that shaped the City of Edmonton's updated Affordable Housing Strategy. Administration heard that the City of Edmonton should continue to take a leadership role to address the affordable housing shortage and, as the City determines appropriate actions, Administration should seek out and incorporate the perspectives of Edmontonians with lived experience into policy and operational decision making. Administration continues to partner with social service agencies to understand the diversity of need and respond accordingly.

Attachment

1. Actions for Council consideration