

## **Speaking Notes**

### **Council – October 28, 2021**

Good morning. My name is Daphna Nussbaum and I am the Project Coordinator and Analyst for the Peel Alliance to End Homelessness. The PAEH is a collaborative of agencies from across the Region of Peel working together to end homelessness in our communities - wanting to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to delegate to you today and would like to commend you on all that you are doing to support your communities during this challenging time, thank you.

The growing affordable housing crisis in Peel along with Covid-19 has placed unprecedented pressures on the shelter system, with more individuals and families experiencing loss of income and housing. Occupancy levels and longer lengths of stays have created conditions for clients and staff that are challenging. While ROP's Housing Services and community service providers continue to house and provide temporary accommodation to people off the Central Housing Waiting List, the pandemic is wake-up call for the need for more deeply affordable housing in Peel.

The Region and PAEH are partners in the development of a Coordinated Access System, to better match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to services and housing based on their needs. Close to 700 people including adults and youth, listed as actively homeless on the Region's By Name List, need permanent and supportive housing.

An increased investment is required to improve housing outcomes, especially for those who are experiencing homelessness. Today we are asking you to increase in funding for needs-based housing subsidies, which is in support of Housing Services request.

We are also asking (reflect 2<sup>nd</sup> page slide) the Region to create a more equitable system by allocating a percentage of housing subsidies, as well as units from new affordable housing developments, to people experiencing homelessness, specifically:

- ✓ An Increased budget for housing subsidies that meet a deeply affordable threshold for market housing.
- ✓ Allot additional funding subsidies requested by Housing Services towards people experiencing homelessness on the Region's By Name List.
- ✓ Allocate a percentage of newly developed affordable housing units towards people experiencing homelessness on the Region's By Name list.

To further illustrate the need, a study of evidence-based housing and homelessness needs conducted by PAEH in winter/spring 2021 illustrated a series of thirteen recommendations, and fifty-five key activities. Amanda DiFalco, the research consultant on the study, will now take through some of the highlights.

### **Amanda's Presentation**

#### **Conclusion**

Peel has made significant progress in undergoing philosophical, strategic, and operational changes that move community closer to ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. We look forward to continuing our work with the Region to address the needs of Peel's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your time and commitment to reducing and ending homelessness in Peel.