

September 15, 2021

Windsor City Council
c/o Steve Vlachodimos
City Clerk
350 City Hall Square West, Room 530
Windsor, Ontario
N9A 6S1

VIA EMAIL - svlachodimos@citywindsor.ca; clerks@citywindsor.ca

Dear Mayor Dilkens and City Councillors:

Re: Regional Affordable Housing Strategy and Review of Social Housing Cost Sharing Agreement

More than ever before, residents of both the City of Windsor and County of Essex are struggling to find affordable housing options within the region. I think we can agree that we're experiencing an affordable housing crisis within the region and it's incumbent on the municipalities within the region to collaborate to develop a plan to address this crisis.

As the Service Manager for the region, Federal and Provincial funding opportunities do become available to you, however, we know they are often restrictive due to the tight deadlines which don't provide for ample time to develop proposals or to seek out private sector investors who may be able to offer some affordable housing partnership solutions.

At the August 11th, 2021 meeting of County Council, a proposal to support an application for a Round 2 Rapid Housing Initiative in Leamington, by way of a 20-year commitment to fund operational costs, was presented by City Administration. County Council was supportive of the project and agreeable to the funding commitment, however, it was recognized that going forward, there is a need for a regional Affordable Housing Strategy to be developed so plans are in place when funding and partnership opportunities are presented.

Subject of Letter Regional Affordable Housing Strategy and Review of Social Housing Cost Sharing Agreement

September 15, 2021

Similarly, County Council received a presentation on June 16, 2021 from the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation, providing an update on the state of the Social Housing stock and the challenges in implementing its capital repair, renewal and asset maintenance program within the region.

County Council recognizes that, it has been twenty-two years since the funding formulas for Ontario Works, Child Care and Social Housing were arbitrated and with respect to Social Housing, it would be appropriate to review the existing funding agreement for regional Social Housing costs and develop a new cost sharing agreement or addendum to the existing agreement.

On behalf of Essex County Council, I would ask that City Council support the immediate commencement of discussions on the development of a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, including funding responsibilities. I would also ask that City Council support the commencement of discussions on the review of the 1999 Social Housing Cost Sharing arbitrated agreement, with a view to addressing cost sharing provisions for new regional units and regional housing and homelessness initiatives.

As a region, I have no doubt that we can work collaboratively to find creative solutions to address the affordable housing crisis facing our residents.

Sincerely yours,



Gary McNamara
Warden, County of Essex

Attachment

CC: All County of Essex Municipal Councils
Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Essex
Jason Reynar, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Windsor

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Suite # 314 Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

 countyofessex.ca



August 12, 2021

Re: Resolution of County Council – August 11, 2021

177-2021

Moved By Nelson Santos

Seconded By Marc Bondy

It is recommended that Essex County Council receive the memo from the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services regarding the Rapid Housing Initiative for information, and further;

THAT Essex County Council pre-commit the annual operating budget funding required, currently estimated at \$48,000 in each of the post-construction operating years to a maximum of 20 years, to support the Round 2 Rapid Housing Initiative project for The Bridge, detailed in the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services memo dated August 6, 2021, subject to refinement of the annual budget estimate as the developments are finalized, and further;

THAT Essex County Council approve, providing a letter of support to the City of Windsor for submission with the application to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the required operating and/or capital funding related to The Bridge project, and further;

THAT Essex County Council approve, entering into an agreement with the City of Windsor for the 20-year operating commitment for the County based on compliance with the Contribution Agreement with CMHC on the Rapid Housing Initiative, and further;

THAT Essex County Council request Windsor City Council to support the immediate commencement of discussions on the development of a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, including funding responsibilities, and further;

THAT Essex County Council request Windsor City Council to support the commencement of discussions on the review of the 1999 Social Housing Cost Sharing arbitrated agreement, with a view to addressing cost sharing provisions for new regional units and regional housing and homelessness initiatives.

Carried