



REVISED NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Exploring High Complexity Supportive Housing On City Land

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Walcott, Councillor Penner

WHEREAS:

The Calgary Homeless Foundation identifies approximately 250 chronically unhoused individuals in Calgary are considered high complexity¹ and placing multiple pressures on public systems through frequent use of emergency services, crisis response, and public safety systems;

Ninety-two per cent of Calgarians surveyed in the 2023 Perspectives on Calgary: Safety Perceptions report (December 2023) agree mental health issues and addiction are contributing to safety and crime concerns in Calgary;

Eighty-eight per cent of Calgarians surveyed in the 2023 Perspectives on Calgary: Housing Affordability and Affordable Housing report (September 2023) consider affordable housing to be an issue, with 66 per cent rating it as a significant issue;

The Downtown Safety Leadership Table prioritized, through its consultative engagement with residents, business and community organizations, the need for targeted housing and supports for people with highly complex needs;

Council approved Home is Here: The City of Calgary’s Housing Strategy which identified direction to dispose of City-owned parcels of land, in addition to the Non-Market Land Disposition Policy;

The Calgary Homeless Foundation partners with governments, social service providers and the HomeSpace Society, a non-market housing development organization, to deliver supportive housing to Calgarians exiting homelessness; and

HomeSpace Society² has the unique expertise and capacity, as well as government and philanthropic support, to develop and operate a High Support Place-Based Supportive Housing Facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council direct Administration to expeditiously work with the HomeSpace Society to identify, assess and transact, at nominal value, a suitable parcel of City-owned land for the development of a high complexity supportive housing facility (High Support Place-Based Supportive Housing Facility). All eligible costs related to the transaction would be supported by the Housing Land Fund.

¹ According to the Calgary Homeless Foundation, high complexity is defined as the most vulnerable people in the homeless population, presenting with tri-morbidity and a lengthy history of chronicity. They tend to have high rates of health problems, including severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, conditions that may be exacerbated by physical illness, injury, or trauma. Consequently, they may be frequent users of emergency services, crisis response, and public safety systems. (See Attachment 1)

² HomeSpace is a charity that builds, maintains, and manages affordable housing for vulnerable Calgarians. HomeSpace own and run a portfolio of 858 units of housing in more than 33 properties throughout Calgary and serve nearly 1,000 residents. In each building, HomeSpace partners with a social service agency who provides wraparound supports in an effort to keep our residents safely housed and connected with resources. They have a growth mandate to build more specialized, permanent, affordable housing to address the affordable housing crisis in Calgary.