

DEPUTATION REQUEST

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

APRIL 11, 2024

Subject: Request for Collaborative Amendment (K.1 Motion from Mayor Mrakas)

Spokesperson: Adam Mobbs

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):

A group of concerned citizens in Aurora, having formed together as Aurora Cares after observing a lack of representation for the entire community regarding the proposed and denied emergency and transitional housing development at 14452 Yonge St.

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Aurora Cares is a collaborative community group that is forward-thinking and action oriented. We believe we can build a coalition of community partners to help York Region build something special for

those who need housing most. Aurora Cares is currently at approximately 50 engaged and caring community members and is growing at a consistent rate as we raise our profile in the community. The delegation is presented on behalf of an organized steering committee representing the broader Aurora Cares community. The steering committee consists of:

Len Bulmer

Lee Glavaz

John Hartman

Lauralei Heggie

Kathy Kantel

Jody Nelson Blackburn

Lisa McDonald

Kimberley McLean

Adam Mobbs

Allison Stuart

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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Brief Summary of Issue or Purpose of Deputation

We respectfully request that the motion K.1 Motion from Mayor Mrakas be amended as follows:

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Regional Staff be directed to work with Town of Aurora Staff in their review of three potential viable sites for alternative housing in Aurora, as directed by Aurora Town Council at its meeting of Feb 27, 2024, for the purpose of advancing regional priorities including supportive housing.

Regional Staff be directed to report back with an update to be included on in the future staff report (by June 2024) that outlines a rapid deployment plan, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address the exponential growth in homelessness.

April 10, 2024

Members of Regional Council

Regional Municipality of York

C/O The Clerks Office (for distribution at the scheduled Council meeting of April 11, 2024)

Re: Request for Collaborative Amendment

Dear Members of Regional Council,

This letter is drafted by a group of concerned citizens in Aurora, having formed together as *Aurora Cares* after observing a lack of representation for the entire community regarding the proposed and denied emergency and transitional housing development at 14452 Yonge St. We believe Aurora should accept its fair share of appropriate development and help solve issues that impact our entire community. We are not NIMBYs, we are YIMBYs – Yes in My Backyard. We seek to give those without a voice, a voice.

Aurora Cares is impressed that York Region Council, through the Committee of the Whole passed a motion on March 7th, 2024 to adopt the *Approach to Developing York Region's 2025 to 2035 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan* and was further impressed with the motion to *bring back a report by June 2024 that outlines a rapid deployment plan, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address the exponential growth in homelessness*. We are encouraged as this shows a positive step in the right direction.

As you may be aware, Aurora Town Council unanimously passed the following motion on February 27th, 2024:

Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff be asked to proactively work with York Region staff to identify three potential viable sites for alternative housing in Aurora, and report back to Council before the end of 2024.

Minutes can be found here:

<https://pub-auroraon.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=15577>

We are concerned the upcoming motion proposed by Mayor Mrakas for this Thursday may run contradictory to these two motions and we seek to bring together local and regional efforts. We want to remind Region Council that in Aurora, Town Council recently rejected a proposal from Housing York Inc. for a Men's Emergency and Transitional Housing facility in the urban boundary.

Please note, we are not opposed to a space utilization study or other efficiencies that can be achieved through a review of region owned assets. *Aurora Cares* requests Region Council is deliberate in ensuring reasonable options are explored by adding an amendment to the motion to direct York Region staff to work with Town of Aurora staff to find suitable properties to address the growth in homelessness in Aurora.

We respectfully request that the motion be amended as follows:

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Regional Staff be directed to work with Town of Aurora Staff in their review of three potential viable sites for alternative housing in Aurora, as directed by Aurora Town Council at its meeting of Feb 27, 2024, for the purpose of advancing regional priorities including supportive housing.

Regional Staff be directed to report back with an update to be included on in the future staff report (by June 2024) that outlines a rapid deployment plan, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address the exponential growth in homelessness.

About Aurora Cares.

Aurora Cares is a collaborative community group that is forward-thinking and action oriented. We believe we can build a coalition of community partners to help York Region build something special for those who need housing most. Aurora Cares is currently at approximately 50 engaged and caring community members and is growing at a consistent rate as we raise our profile in the community. This letter has been drafted by an organized steering committee representing the broader Aurora Cares community.

Sincerely,
Len Bulmer
Lee Glavaz
John Hartman
Lauralei Heggie
Kathy Kantel
Jody Nelson Blackburn
Lisa McDonald
Kimberley McLean
Adam Mobbs
Allison Stuart

On behalf of *Aurora Cares*

c.c. Aurora Council