



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 13, 2023
SUBJECT:	Winter Response Cold Alert Strategy 2022-2023 (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Baird Director Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

This is an update on Winter Response Strategy spending within the 2022/2023 winter months.

As background, the Emergency and Community Services Committee at its meeting on January 19, 2023, approved report HSC23012 - Winter Response Strategy, which authorized staff to implement an immediate winter response strategy to March 31, 2023. Further, the Emergency and Community Services Committee directed the following, at its meeting December 1, 2022 and amended on December 7, 2022:

“That Staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee to in Q2 2023 summarizing whom these funds were allocated and how they were spent in order to address the needs of the community.”

This update provides a summary of how the funds that were allocated to the Winter Response for the period December 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 as recommended by HSC23012 were spent to provide a community winter response for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The City funded \$203 K for the response.

A designated City of Hamilton Recreation Centre (Central Memorial) operated during statutory holidays, holiday shut-down days and inclement weather events with Housing Services Division, Ontario Works Division and Recreation Division staffing cost of \$7 K. The Recreation Centre was operated for a total of 5 days between December 31, 2022

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

and March 2, 2023. They served one individual who was not experiencing homelessness.

The Hub drop-in centre offered 21 additional low-barrier daily overnight warming spaces at a cost of \$196 K. They served on average 177 unique individuals per month between December 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023.

Although the City issued a Community call out on January 31, 2023 to interested agencies asking for a business case from organizations with experience serving people experiencing homelessness to operate a specialized low-barrier warming space, no organizations responded to the call to deliver this service, therefore, the \$100 K approved in HSC23012 was not spent.

By way of this communications update, the matter respecting that staff report back on the results and how the funds that were allocated for the Winter Response Cold Alert Strategy 2022-2023, Item 22-F be identified as complete and removed from the Emergency and Community Services Committee Outstanding Business List.

For more information, please contact Rob Mastroianni, Manager Homelessness & Housing Support, at Rob.Mastroianni@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 x8035.