

October 22, 2020

Dear Council members,

We recognize the challenge that has come before Council within the three requests contained in the Supportive and Affordable Housing Update Report. We thank City staff for their support in bringing this forward. We have elected to submit in writing rather than by in-person delegation.

The funds and support requested by Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph are materially impactful on our fiscal well-being and underlie our ability to move forward with future projects.

The allocation of scarce resources is difficult. We do not wish to petition to the disadvantage of other organizations. In fact, we recognize the importance of the Mission of the two peer organizations identified within this report: Kindle and the Drop In Centre. Also, we recognize those requests that will make up the balance of funds cited within the report regarding projects that are not sufficiently advanced to be included as formal requests at this time.

Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph has facilitated discussion among the many organizations that have an interest in advancing supportive and affordable housing in our community. We still intend to lead in this area. A full-housing-spectrum solution is required for our community. One that aggregates resources, shares social and financial interests and works closely with City and County officials. We anticipate a solution being in place by the time a supportive/affordable housing coalition forms and participates in the build out of the former IMICO property.

Even in these three separate initiatives, we see opportunities for cooperation and sharing. Habitat for Humanity will be pleased to lend staff/volunteer resources as requested to both Kindle and the Drop In Centre in the advancement of their separate projects.

As it pertains to the Cityview project specifically and the timing of our request, at the time we entered the deferral arrangement regarding existing development charges, we understood that we would have an opportunity to request participation on equal footing with other organizations once City policies were finalized. The approach taken to allocation of funds regarding supportive/affordable housing did not include an opportunity for our participation.

Construction funds already having been spent, and individuals and families soon placed, we will recover funds over the ensuing 20-year rental and mortgage terms as per agreements in place with the Province of Ontario and CMHC. The COVID circumstances regarding our ReStore revenues and fundraising and our current shortfall have been set out in the report. Together, these factors underlie our request.

Our appreciation to Council and City staff for exploring ways to assist organizations that are providing support to the most vulnerable in our community by addressing the fundamental right of safe, decent and affordable housing.



Steve Howard, CEO



Katherine Gibson, Board Chair