

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Public Services
Date	Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Subject	County of Wellington Recommendation – Drop-In Hours in Downtown Guelph

Recommendation

1. That the City of Guelph will provide a one-time operating contribution of \$250,850 to facilitate the 2023 extension of drop-in service hours at Royal City Mission beginning January 1, 2023.
 2. That the \$250,850 is taken from the Tax Rate Operating Contingency Reserve.
 3. That Royal City Mission be requested to submit progress reports to the City of Guelph, no later than May 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023, summarizing both the results and impact of the extension of drop-in service hours.
 4. That any future funding requests related to shelter services be referred to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To respond to the recommendation from the County of Wellington, arising out of discussions at the September 14, 2022 meeting of the Social Services Committee at which the Committee considered the request for funding to extend the hours for the Royal City Mission in 2023.

Key Findings

At the request of Guelph City Council, the County of Wellington’s Social Services Committee considered urgent needs in the downtown core, specifically pertaining to provision of daytime shelter services.

A gap was identified in the current provision of daytime shelter services in the downtown core as Royal City Mission is only open from 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm, leaving a four-hour gap in the morning. County staff, working with the Royal City Mission, have identified the costs associated with extending the daytime hours for Royal City Mission to cover the entire time from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The guiding statement for the Building Our Future pillar of the Strategic Plan speaks to building equitable, strong, safe and healthy communities. This initiative specifically addresses the enhancement of community safety and well-being, while aligning our efforts with local partners for the service delivery.

Financial Implications

It is the recommendation of staff that the one-time funding of \$250,850 be funded from the Tax Rate Operating Contingency Reserve.

Report

At the July 18, 2022 meeting of Guelph City Council, a number of resolutions were passed related to the agenda item entitled Urgent Issues Related to Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions. Two of the motions stated:

- That City Council urgently requests Wellington County Council to call an emergency meeting to hear from and respond to community social service providers with respect to urgent needs related to homelessness, mental health and addiction issues.
- That City Council respectfully requests that Wellington County work alongside the City of Guelph and other stakeholders to identify any gaps in the existing shelter system with the goal of 24-hour shelter coverage in the City of Guelph and report back by August 2022 with a plan to achieve 24-hour coverage.

In response, the County of Wellington convened a special meeting of their Social Services committee on July 21, 2022 with further follow-up at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 2022. At the September meeting, the County's Social Services Administrator brought a report for consideration entitled "Increased Drop-In Hours in Downtown Guelph" (attachment 1). The attached County of Wellington report provides further information on the possibility of increasing the level of service at Royal City Mission by an additional four hours with support provided by additional staff, and the associated financial impacts.

The following motions were passed at that September 14, 2022 meeting:

- That with the concurrence of the City of Guelph, the Royal City Mission be requested to commence 8:00 am – 8:00 pm drop-in service at its Quebec Street location effective January 1, 2023 as detailed in the report: [Increased Drop-in Hours in Downtown Guelph](#), dated September 14, 2022; and
- That the County contribute \$27,872 in 100% municipal funds in 2023; and
- That the City of Guelph be requested to confirm its operating contribution of \$250,850 as soon as possible to facilitate the January 1, 2023 extension of drop-in service hours; and
- That the extension of hours be reviewed in the Fall of 2023 by County and City staff, and considered for funding by the County and the City in 2024 budgets.

In consultation, staff brought the request for consideration to the Strategic Advisory Group on Downtown Issues, a Subcommittee of the Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness and Community Safety. At the November 28 meeting of the advisory group, there was endorsement of this one-time funding to Royal City Mission to address the short-term immediate concerns for 2023.

In order to ensure appropriate reporting and in advance of any potential future funding requests, Royal City Mission is requested to submit progress reports to the City of Guelph, no later than May 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023, summarizing both the results and impact of the extension of drop-in service hours. The reports should include information on measurable impacts and metrics that can

demonstrate the effectiveness of the extension of hours, an analysis on the organization's success in providing the increased level of service, and an overview of any challenges experienced. The reports will be provided to the Strategic Advisory Group on Downtown Issues for review and consideration of any recommendations for future funding, and the information may also be included in public reporting to Guelph City Council.

Financial Implications

As this request is being considered outside of the normal budget process, and is for one-time funding, staff are recommending that the \$250,850 be funded from the Tax Rate Operating Contingency Reserve. Any consideration of funding beyond the amount for 2023 will be referred for consideration and decision as part of the 2024-2027 multi-year budget deliberations.

Consultations

Wellington County Social Services Committee

Subcommittee of the Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness and Community Safety – Strategic Advisory Group on Downtown Issues

Attachments

Attachment-1 County of Wellington Social Services Committee Report – Increased Drop-In Hours in Downtown Guelph

Departmental Approval

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