

November 20, 2024

Social & Community Services Housing Services 1151 Bronte Road

Dear Town of Oakville,

RE: Minor Variance Application 750 Redwood Square

Please accept this additional information on behalf of Halton Region and the Salvation Army with respect to our joint application for a minor variance on the lands of 750 Redwood Square in Oakville. As you may know, Halton Region owns the land at this location and Salvation Army owns the building.

In the last year, a collaborative project between the Salvation Army, the Region and the Town of Oakville was completed at 750 Redwood Square to add capacity for nine (9) additional emergency shelter rooms at this location with accompanying office space and washrooms. Thank you for your partnership to make this renovation possible, we are now serving forty (40) individuals on site and are at 100% capacity every day.

Further to Regional Council report SS-05-24 re: "Allocation of Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program Funding in 2024-2025 and Federal Reaching Home 2024-2028 Update" (attached) the Region is relying extensively on third party hotel rooms to move individuals from unsheltered homelessness (encampments) in Oakville into emergency accommodations due to capacity issues at the Salvation Army Lighthouse. While hotel accommodations are useful to move individuals inside on a temporary basis, they are not sustainable on a long term horizon for the provision of shelter for individual with higher support needs, such as those coming out of encampments.

Halton Region is committed to making offers of emergency shelter to individuals in Oakville sleeping in encampments within 48-hours of being identified. To do so, additional capacity at our primary men's emergency shelter location is required to be able to provide the kind of 'on-site' supports required to support this population and extend these offers of shelter in a timely manner.

As such, this application is respectfully requesting a minor variance to increase the maximum capacity of emergency shelter clients at the Salvation Army Lighthouse up to 60 beds. Since the completion of the renovation on site to add 9 additional rooms, the facility has up to 20 beds sitting empty each night, which are not being filled due to the existing zoning restrictions on site. These empty rooms create inefficiencies in our emergency shelter system and are not sustainable over the long term horizon.

If we are unable to increase capacity at the Lighthouse, the Region will need to look for other options to increase the emergency shelter footprint in Oakville. In our view, the current location of the Salvation Army Lighthouse is ideal from the perspective of providing high-quality housing support services until individuals can move into permanent housing elsewhere in the Region. For this population, the existing converted employment lands can be enhanced to provide up to 60 beds of emergency shelter without negatively impacting any neighbours or infrastructure.

The Regional Municipality of Halton

Thank you for considering our joint application for a minor variance on these lands. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly should you have any questions or require any further information from Halton Region related to the Salvation Army's application. I can be reached by e-mail at: Daryl.Kaytor@halton.ca or by telephone at: (289) 795-7509.

Sincerely,

Daryl Kaytor Director of Housing Services Housing Services Social & Community Services Halton Region 905-825-6000, ext. 4445 | 1-866-442-5866

ALL GIVEN GRADES AND ELEVATIONS PRIOR TO TO THE ENGINEER.

TO IMPLEMENTATION.

