

Received Date	September 01, 2022
Meeting Date	September 06, 2022
Open or Closed	Open Session

Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

Subject: Homelessness in Saint John

Background:

Our city has long struggled with poverty and housing. In Ward 3, 34.3% of people live in poverty, while 45% of children live in poverty. Shelter cost make up over 30% of income for more than 34% of residents as of 2018 – a number that is likely much higher now. As rents rise across the city, the 71% of Ward 3 residents of whom rent are facing higher and higher costs.

The Human Development Council currently cites 141 people experiencing homelessness in Saint John, up from 112 as of April. Those experiencing chronic homelessness sits at 88, compared to 57 this time last year. As rents rise and vacancy rates remain low, more and more Saint Johners are being left with few options other than the street.

While we continue to call on the provincial and federal governments to take transformational action on housing, the City of Saint John has stepped up with an Affordable Housing Plan that lays out the roadmap for development of affordable housing in Saint John. While this plan is a great step, the cold winter months are quickly approaching, and council must take the steps that it can.

Motion:

RESOLVED that Common Council direct the City Manager, as a priority effort, to work closely with the other levels of government, and not-for-profit organizations within our community, to explore options to reduce the homeless population before winter and to provide additional support to those who remain homeless.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Received via email)

David Hickey
Councillor
City of Saint John

