

Report to Council

Report Title:	Municipal Response to Encampments		
Prepared By:	Dieter Wetz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO, Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer		
Department:	By-Law Enforcement		
Date:	September 20, 2022		
Report Number:	BL2022-08	File Number:	C11BY
Attachments:	Letter from Resident		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BL2022-08 - Municipal Response to Encampments, prepared by Dieter Wetz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The following report outlines the Municipal Response to date for Encampments within the Municipality of Brockton. The Municipality of Brockton established By-Law 2022-081 the "Encampment By-Law" for the purposes of regulating camping in response to the increase in concerns being raised surrounding camping and encampments within the Municipality. The principal objective with the creation and adoption of the Encampment By-Law is for the protection of health and well being of the public within the Municipality of Brockton.

Analysis:

The Municipality of Brockton recognizes that everyone deserves a home. The support for supplying low income housing rests with our community partners including the County of Bruce and the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, with other agencies available to provide additional outreach services.

The Municipal Response to Encampments directly involves our community partners to ensure that no person is left displaced. Every visit by Municipal staff to an Encampment site involves our community partners being present to ensure that every person is respectfully offered housing and support services.

Municipal By-Law Enforcement, Parks and Recreation and Fire Department Staff when attending an Encampment site take the necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of all persons present. This

often results in the joint attendance of other emergency services such as EMS Paramedic and Police Services being present and available to assist to provide services when required.

Municipal staff recognize and use various techniques and methods of engagement when addressing and attending to the persons residing in Encampments to ensure staff remain considerate and respectful of the persons being attended to. As a result, there have been minimal health and safety incidents arise to date for our Municipal Staff, community partners and those residing in the Encampments when attending an Encampment site.

It is difficult to provide firm statistics based on previous years. However, it would appear that there is a significant increase of Encampments in the town of Walkerton in 2022 that have required staff’s attention and clean up efforts. The following is a summary of the approximate hours spent by Municipal Departments in response to Encampments since June of 2022.

- Parks and Recreation - 119 staff hours
- By-Law Enforcement - 57 staff hours
- Fire Department – 12 staff hours

The volume of available resources allocated to this response have not been included in yearly workplans and have taken a significant focus of various staff throughout the Municipality this summer. The CAO, Director of Community Services and CBO have also had meetings with various agency representatives, working through potential response, looking for alternatives and providing guidance on matters as they arise. Municipal staff will continue to respond and coordinate the appropriate response to addressing Encampments within the Municipality in consistent manner. Focus, attention and support from our community partners is necessary to ensure that individuals turning to residing in Encampments have alternative options available with the necessary support and resources for their personal health and well-being which includes a safe and healthy home and place to reside. We are appreciative of the support of all agencies to date.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?	
• Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance	Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:


- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

The Financial Impacts with respect to this report for the delivery of Municipal services as it relates to staff hours will continue to be tracked and monitored.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dieter Weltz", written in a cursive style.

Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", written in a cursive style.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer