

*Thank you for taking the time to reach out to the Mayor's Office and express your views about the removal of temporary shelters located on municipal property.*

*Please know temporary shelters cannot remain on-site indefinitely and will be removed to adhere to legislation. Since the beginning of the homeless encampments, the approach has been to allow occupants to remain until adequate housing has been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk. This article highlights some of the public safety concerns that have come to our attention, [Councillor says people feared walking through tent encampments](#) (msn.com)*

*HRM has been working with the province, as well as community-based partners including Street Outreach Navigators and Housing Support Workers, to offer those experiencing homelessness with support which includes permanent housing options and/or temporary accommodation. As well, the province has been working to ensure all current occupants of the temporary shelters will be offered a temporary accommodation option that can bridge to permanent housing.*

*Some individuals who had previously been occupying a temporary shelter have accepted a housing solution. It is important to remember those experiencing homelessness can choose to accept or decline housing options and offers of support.*

*The municipality's approach centers on treating people experiencing homelessness in our public spaces with dignity while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality.*

*In terms of where we are now, I will provide the following updates:*

- *Mayor Savage has moved motion for additional money and suspension of normal procedures [Mayor Savage - Crisis Housing - Aug 31/21 Regional Council | Halifax.ca](#) (motion approved).  
\* [Halifax council approves \\$500K fund for emergency housing | CBC News](#)*
- *The Mayor has convened an internal group to ensure we are prioritizing short and medium term responses.*
- *Through both Mayor's office and staff we are in touch with lead organizer at the park on Chebucto/ Dublin and share an interest in finding alternatives. To that end, we secured a number of hotel rooms, but we are limited by a shortage of housing support workers to assist in this transition.*
- *We are also pursuing a range of other alternatives from immediate crisis sites to interim options to help bridge people, like conversion of unused space*
- *The Mayor has spoken with the Premier and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister to press the need for action on homelessness and affordable housing.*

*Below is the link to the statement provided by HRM*  
[Statement regarding homeless encampments | Halifax](#)

***Any further questions regarding what the province is offering to occupants of homeless encampments should be directed to the province as they are responsible to address homelessness in all of Nova***

**Scotia's municipalities.** Residents with questions related to **provincial supports and services** for those experiencing homelessness can **call 211** for more information. Complaints related to **police operations** should be directed to the police **complaints line: 902.490.4127**

*Thanks again for taking the time to write.*

Chelsea