

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services
Housing Services
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Shelley Wilkins, (Hon) BPA
Director, Housing Services

Date: January 7, 2019

Subject: Ontario Human Rights Commission Publication: “In The Zone:
Housing, Human Rights and Municipal Planning”

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has created the attached publication, “In the zone: Housing, Human Rights and Municipal Planning,” as a guide offering an overview of the human rights responsibilities of municipalities in housing.

Comments

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent is the designated Service Manager for the purposes of the Housing Services Act, with responsibilities as both the program administrator and funder of social housing within the Chatham-Kent service area. The Director of Housing Services has responsibilities as both the Service Manager representative for the Municipality and with respect to the Municipally-owned public housing portfolio. The Service Manager role also includes responsibilities with respect to administering the various affordable housing programs.

One of the streams of affordable housing programs is the development of new affordable housing, whether developed, owned and operated by private or private non-profit entities, or by the Municipality. In many cases, the development of new affordable housing within Chatham-Kent will inevitably require the chosen site to go through some type of planning approval process – some with a public process (like rezoning or minor variance) and some without a public process (like site plan approval/agreement). In the cases of the public processes, quite often Council members will be taken to task by neighbouring property owners who object to affordable housing being built in their neighbourhood. This is commonly known as “NIMBYism” – Not In My Backyard syndrome. In such cases, Council members will want to ensure that they are cognizant

of the requirements to not accept or use discriminatory grounds for opposing any planning approvals for affordable housing.

The publication attached provides Council members with useful information on how to ensure planning decisions stand up to the test of meeting the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Consultation

While consultation was not required for the writing of this report, the attached document is used by both Housing Services and Planning Services to ensure all obligations are met.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for this report.

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Reviewed by:

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Attachment: "In the zone: Housing, Human Rights and Municipal Planning," Ontario Human Rights Commission

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