

City Council, Standing Committee and Commission / Conseil, comités permanents et commission

Motion

Meeting date / Date de la réunion : 3 March 2026 / 3 mars 2026

Agenda No. / Ordre du jour no : 34

Item Title / Titre du point de l'ordre du jour : 12.3, Advancing the ByWard Market: A Revitalization Framework and Coordinated Redevelopment Program

Re / Objet : Concentration of Services

Moved by / Motion de : Councillor S. Plante

Seconded by / Appuyé par: Councillor D. Brown

WHEREAS many delegations at Finance and Corporate Services Committee on the ByWard Market Revitalization Framework and Redevelopment Program on March 3, 2026 delegated in support of the capital infrastructure investments and a flexible balance between pedestrianization and parking, while also highlighting the need to address social service concentration;

WHEREAS document 2 of 11.1 - ByWard Market Revitalization Measurement Framework cites implementing the Unsheltered Homelessness Outreach Model as an action under the Safety and Well-Being for All area of focus;

WHEREAS the Unsheltered Homelessness Outreach Model report (ACS2026-CSS-GEN-003) rises to Council on March 11, 2026.

WHEREAS the report states:

- **“...the highest number of recorded unsheltered individuals reached 405, with encampments concentrated in downtown neighbourhoods like Centretown, Lowertown, and Sandy Hill.”**
- **“Compounding the unsheltered homelessness crisis is the toxic drug crisis the city is facing. In 2024, there were 941 overdose-related emergency department visits and 166 opioid-related deaths, with the highest rates in Lowertown West and East, Wateridge Village and Centretown West.”**
- **“A 2025 population survey showed 41 per cent of downtown residents feel unsafe walking around after dark, and over 65 per cent of respondents feel their neighbourhood has worsened in the past two years, citing public drug use and discarded needles as key concerns.”**

WHEREAS delegate submissions consistently raised the issue of social disorder (the intersection of homelessness, substance abuse and crime and safety), in their delegations;

WHEREAS the Rideau Business Improvement Area commissioned a public opinion survey of residents, which part of the delegation submissions for this item, that found in 2025, the top two barriers to visiting the downtown were resident perceptions of Crime and Safety (23%) and Homelessness (23%);

WHEREAS “Housing First” (including transitional and supportive housing), with better mental health and addiction wrap-around services, remains a longer-term priority focus of this Term of Council’s priorities that I whole-heartedly support through the Housing and Homelessness 10 year plan refresh, the Housing Acceleration Plan and the Downtown Revitalization Framework, but that it requires additional federal and provincial government support for it to be achievable system wide;

WHEREAS this short-to-longer term focused actions on the ByWard is necessary in delivering on these larger agendas;

WHEREAS support for capital infrastructure investment in the ByWard Market is welcomed but will not bear the fruit of visitation and increased tourism if perceptions of crime, safety and homelessness are not addressed as a city-wide issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ByWard Market Revitalization Framework and its measurement framework, amend the area of focus of “Safety and Well-Being for All,” to include the following objective: “Identify strategies to address the impact of concentration of social services from Ward 12.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that medium-term actions under this area of focus will include "The Steering Committee to identify potential strategies to achieve this objective, some of which may require future consideration by the appropriate Standing Committee (s) and Council.”