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Subject: For Immediate Release: Councillor Skelly calls in City Auditor after cost of housing project soar

For Immediate Release

November 23, 2016

“SKELLY CALLS IN CITY AUDITOR AFTER COST OF HOUSING PROJECT SOARS”

Ward 7 Councillor Donna Skelly will ask Hamilton City Council to approve a motion, asking for Hamilton’s Director of Audit Services, Charles Brown, to investigate why costs of proposed improvements to a CityHousing seniors’ residence have tripled.

In 2015, council approved \$350,000 from the ward 7 area rating budget to cover the cost of improving the entrance, and to expand the parking lot at Mohawk Gardens, a CityHousing seniors’ facility. The \$350,000 was part of \$800,000 to be used on improvements to CityHousing units within the ward. Earlier this month, Skelly was shocked to discover the cost of the project has skyrocketed from \$350,000 to more than \$1.1 million. Further, almost \$115,000 has already been spent in consulting and engineering fees, without a shovel in the ground.

“I find it disturbing that this project has ballooned to more than triple the original estimate. I also want clarification as to whether any of the work was tendered and answers as to why we were not using Hamilton companies for the bulk of the work.” *Hamilton Councillor
Donna Skelly*

Councillor Skelly has met with the CEO of CityHousing Hamilton, Tom Hunter, and City Auditor Charles Brown, to discuss the matter. She has also notified the chair of the board of CityHousing Hamilton about her request for an audit.

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