



**Growth Department**

**Memorandum**

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**TO:** Krista Power, Director – Legislative Services & City Clerk      **FILE:**

**FROM:** Cynthia Olsen, Director of Strategy & Engagement

**DATE:** 06/19/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

**SUBJECT:** Additional Information to inform Notice of Motion - Temporary Village Initiative – Safety Assessment Findings

**MEETING & DATE:** City Council – 06/23/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

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This memo advises City Council that Kam River Heritage Park is no longer considered a viable location for the Temporary Shelter Village (the Village) due to the cost-prohibitive nature of safety mitigation measures required to satisfy external partners. Council approved the site on April 28, 2025, with ratification on May 5, 2025, and at that time, Administration committed to conducting a site-specific safety assessment and returning to Council if the site proved unviable.

The assessment is nearing completion and it has become clear that although the mitigation measures required to satisfy external partners are technically feasible, their cumulative cost exceeds the project’s available budget. As a result, Administration recommends that an alternative site be identified without delay to preserve project viability, uphold Council’s direction, and safeguard access to significant capital funding.

To identify a new site, Administration will:

- Re-examine the full ranked list of municipal properties, placing less emphasis on proximity to services;
- Consider new municipally owned properties;
- Explore enhanced transportation options to offset service access challenges;
- Conduct preliminary safety reviews on potential alternate sites.

The Village remains a cornerstone of Thunder Bay’s Enhanced Encampment Response Plan and is essential in enabling the next phases of the 10-part plan. Without it, the City

will face increasing challenges in managing encampments and providing coordinated support to unsheltered individuals.

C.C. John Collin, City Manager  
Kerri Marshall, Commissioner – Growth  
Rilee Willianen, Encampment Response Lead