



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 20-010
Date: July 6, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 3993

4. COMMUNICATIONS

*4.2 Correspondence from Kojo Dampety and Karl Andrus, HCCI, respecting the Commonwealth Games

Recommendation: Be received.

*4.3 Correspondence from Elizabeth Seidl, respecting the Commonwealth Games

Recommendation: Be received.

*4.4 Correspondence from Erin Shacklette respecting the Commonwealth Games

Recommendation: Be received.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

*10.1 Commonwealth Games 2026



Dear Mayor & City Councillors of Hamilton,

As Council considers the Commonwealth Games 2026 as item 5.2 - PED19108(e) at the General Issues Committee meeting on Monday, July 6th, we implore Council to reject the propitious proposal. The city of Hamilton is facing grave financial concerns and budget shortfalls from the Covid-19 pandemic. Budgets are being trimmed substantially, city-led long term infrastructure projects are being delayed. The 10-year transit strategy is now being pushed into a 13th year. Moreover, an endless list of items like housing, homelessness, expanding social programs, road infrastructure debt, expanding our CSO tank system would be a far better use for our local tax dollars. Spending upwards of \$300 Million local tax dollars and potentially more than a \$1 Billion of federal and provincial tax dollars on a mass sporting spectacle that has left other host cities bereft of benefit cannot possibly be up for consideration during this pandemic.

The 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India, suffered from a lot of social and economic issues. It suffered from poor ticket sales, infrastructure and transportation issues, a debt the local government is struggling with today and came in at 100 times the original budget. The 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland's Athletic Village, was torn down just after the games to build housing with an additional cost beyond the games. The 2018 Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast also went over budget, saw local businesses and hotels deeply frustrated with a complete lack of business. The 2018 games cost USD\$1.33 Billion, returning USD\$1.5B in GDP boost. The 2014 Games cost USD\$829.35M with a return of USD\$1.0B. The 2010 Games are widely assumed to have cost the local economy more than they invested. These GDP boosts are less than would be gained from direct government investment in traditional physical infrastructure. ~CND\$1.2B in debt-financed tax paid money would return far more invested directly in the infrastructure needs of the residents of this city. Closer to home the 2015 Pan-American Games was found by auditor-general Bonnie Lysyk to be over-budget by CA\$342 million. The Toronto Athletes' Village highlighted as an opportunity to build affordable housing ended in upmarket condominiums. This was built on lands procured by the government to build a public housing project. The Tim Horton's field continues to be plagued with repair issues requiring further expenditures. Transit, social housing, parks, swimming pools, sporting and leisure facilities, upgraded public spaces, safer streets and health infrastructure all would benefit our economy and residents more than the Commonwealth Games.

Should this Council consider the massive expenditure of public sums of money on hosting the Commonwealth Games, it is incumbent on you as stewards of our tax dollars to ensure the expense benefits as many Hamilton residents as possible, especially those most marginalized. Community benefits processes offer a way for government and other institutions to multiply the impact of their spending. To that end, we ask Council to insist the Commonwealth Games bid comes with a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement. This agreement should be signed between community groups with expertise in Community Benefits Agreements, City staff and game organizers. The agreement should be used to bring community voice to the benefits of any Commonwealth Games opportunity. To create targeted hiring and training opportunities, provide economic opportunities, reduce poverty, build actual affordable housing and support community priorities among Indigenous peoples and equity-seeking groups. These agreements have been used successfully in many other cities around the world to ensure significant scale investments bring maximum return of public expenditures.

Yours sincerely,

Kojo Dampthey (Interim Executive Director) & Karl Andrus (Hamilton Community Benefits Network Inc – VP – Community)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kojo Dampthey'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karl Andrus'.

From: Elizabeth Seidl

Sent: July 3, 2020 11:11 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Commonwealth Games hosting proposal

Good Morning GIC,

I'm writing in regards to the Commonwealth Games 2030 report. From what I understand, the City of Hamilton will be required to make a financial investment in the planning, delivery and legacies of the games with respect to a Hosting Proposal submission for the games. Because of the ongoing financial impacts of COVID19 on the city, I'm not convinced the city is in a financial position to have tax payers fund this proposal. I cannot in good faith as a taxpayer of the City of Hamilton support this investment, but suggest that you perhaps try a Go Fund Me, as successfully utilized by Hamilton Bike Share to retain the SoBi bike share program, an essential service. This way, people interested in seeing the games in Hamilton can contribute. Good luck!

Elizabeth Seidl
Hamilton

From: Erin S

Sent: July 3, 2020 11:28 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Letter to General Issues Committee re: Commonwealth Games

Dear GIC,

I'm writing in regards to the Commonwealth Games 2030 report. It is my understanding that the City of Hamilton will be required to make a financial investment in the planning, delivery and legacies of the games with respect to a Hosting Proposal submission for the games. Due to the ongoing financial impacts of COVID19 on the city, I'm not convinced the City is in a financial position to have tax payers fund this proposal. I cannot in good faith as a taxpayer of the City of Hamilton support this investment. I do however offer a suggestion. Perhaps try a Go Fund Me page, as successfully utilized by Hamilton Bike Share to retain the SoBi bike share program which is an essential service, as deemed by the City of Hamilton. In this way, people interested in wanting to see the games in Hamilton can contribute to the cost.

Best of luck.

Kind regards,

Erin Shacklette
Ward 4 resident

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: July 6, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. PARTRIDGE.....

Commonwealth Games 2026

WHEREAS, a local community consortium known as Commonwealth100 has come together to lead the development of a bid proposal to host the Commonwealth Games in Hamilton in 2030;

WHEREAS, Hamilton City Council has endorsed, in principle, to participate in a bid proposal for Hamilton to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030; and,

WHEREAS, the local consortium, Commonwealth100 now known as Hamilton2026 has worked with Commonwealth Sport Canada and the Commonwealth Games Federation on a potential pivot for Hamilton from hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games to the 2026 Commonwealth Games;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the representatives from Hamilton2026, Commonwealth Sport Canada and the Commonwealth Games Federation be invited to attend the August 10, 2020 General Issues Committee to answer questions and provide additional information on a potential 2026 Hamilton proposal and next steps.