



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 20-012
Date: September 9, 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

5. DELEGATION REQUESTS

5.1 Delegation Requests respecting Defunding of the Hamilton Police Service (for the September 9th GIC):

*5.1.i Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh (Video Submission)

*5.1.j Katharine King (Video Submission)

*5.1.k Karlie Rogerson (Video Submission)

*5.2 Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance, respecting Adopting Hemp into the Canadian SDGs

(For a future GIC)

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.6 Tim Hortons Field - End Guard Anchor Repair-Replacement (PW20039(a)) (City Wide)

*9.6.a Tim Hortons Field - End Guard Anchor Repair-Replacement (PW20039(c)) (City Wide)

*9.11 Encampment Update (HSC20038) (City Wide)

12. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

*12.1 Amendments to the Outstanding Business List:

*12.1.a Items to be removed:

*12.1.a.a Contractual Update - Alectra

(Addressed on July 6, 2020 as Item 1 of GIC Report 20-010 - Report FCS19059(a) / LS19048(a))

*12.1.a.b Divesting and Defunding of the Hamilton Police Services

(Addressed as Items 9.1 to 9.5 on today's agenda)

13. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

*13.2 Encampment Litigation Update (LS20023(b)) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 8.1, Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 18-270, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and, advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 - 5:48 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: I've submitted a video in support of defunding the police. I think it's important we start investing more in social programs to help our communities. Too often, Black people, Brown people, Indigenous people and those in the LGBTQ+ community are unfairly targeted and harmed by the police. There must be a better way forward.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

From: Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh
Sent: August 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc:
Subject: GIC August 10th Meeting

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to send a video calling for defunding the police, unfortunately the file is too big and compressing isn't working. I've attached instead a ZIP file of the last half of my video.

These were my major points:

– Invest in people not systems of oppression.

– I agree with my city councillor, Terry Whitehead, that the continued increase in police funding is unsustainable. We over-fund the police and under-fund the rest of Hamilton. We are in dire need of housing, infrastructure, children's services, etc.

– I'm calling for a 20% reduction in the police services budget. It's outrageous we spend \$171 million on police services and only \$11 million on children's services.

– The way the Hamilton Police treated the LGBTQ+ community at Pride last year was disheartening and infuriating. That they allowed people who came into our city to intentionally incite violence to beat, brutalize and harm people participating in Pride was disgusting. Then, the charges that were laid were upon people from the parade *instead of* the instigators of violence. Charges were only brought after public pressure. It's insulting. Police should be protecting all communities and too often they do not.

– As a white person, I used to believe police were mostly there to protect and to help. After listening to Black and Brown communities I have realized just how much that is not true. Too often they are targeted, marginalized, harmed and sometimes killed at the hands of police. That is not acceptable and it's time for the City of Hamilton to come out and agree with its citizens and stand on the right side of history.

– Let's start investing more money into social programs, housing, children's services and communities. These are the things that help people. More police is not the answer, more tasers, more shows of aggression, is not the answer.

– Furthermore, I do not believe we should make a bid for the Commonwealth Games. There are so many things in Hamilton that need investments. Studies have shown cities who host games are often left with a huge bill and debt issues. We already have these issues. Please do not bid for the games.

Thanks for your time,
Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh
Ward 14 Resident

Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 - 6:40 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Katharine King

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request:

Want to request defunding of the Hamilton Police Service

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

My name is Karlie Rogerson and I am a Beasley resident in Ward 2 as well as a professional working in ward 3 and 4 communities. I am sending a pre-recorded video in support of the call to defund the Hamilton Police.

I am speaking today to express that I support Councillor Nann and Wilson's call to defund the police and prioritize investment in community safety and wellbeing. I will also be including a brief outline of my reasoning for the support by highlighting my concerns about our current structure as well as some suggestions as to where here in Hamilton we can reallocate funds.

Concern #1: Wellness Checks

I am concerned about the amount of fatal encounters that have been happening in our very own country when it comes to law enforcement doing wellness checks. More specifically here in Hamilton I am worried about our systems currently in place for wellness checks.

Causes for Concern:

I am someone who has been in crisis before and have experienced first hand how relevant services have been overloaded with calls and do not have the capacity to provide essential care.

I am someone who works with vulnerable people in our communities, I am aware of relevant services to access if someone is in crisis and upon attempting to access those services on their behalf I was directed to call 911 where police were dispatched.

Suggestions:

First, Reallocate funds into services such as COAST and Barrett centre so that they are able to provide relevant care to our populations that are in crisis or in need of a wellness check.

Second, Reallocate funds into our mental health services such as St.Joesph's West Fifth campus as well as the Youth Wellness Centre. Allowing them to continue to provide preventative care resulting in less people being in crisis

And Third to Reallocate funds into community services that can provide front line workers in ALL relevant fields training on how to safely connect a person in crisis to appropriate crisis service that are not law enforcement such as COAST or Barrett Centre.

Concern #2: The state of our Neighbourhood Action Strategy (NAS)

Our priority neighbourhood hubs outlined in the NAS have been in limbo with no concrete plan or guidance as neighbourhoods have been stripped of their community development workers. These community hubs were put in place for a variety of reasons, one of them being to ultimately lower crime (lowering need for law enforcement) by engaging communities in meaningful ways and allowing their residents to feel connected.

Causes for Concern:

Many communities under the NAS developed concrete strategies for crime reduction within their communities. These hubs were not provided enough resources to fulfill all of these identified strategies.

The NAS has been in limbo with little guidance. The last report was published in 2017 and residents are still unsure about the state of these hubs limiting their abilities to develop their communities.

Suggestions:

First to Reallocate funds back into community hubs allowing them to hire community developers with a focus on community safety and wellbeing.

And second to Reallocate funds into hubs allowing them to engage with their residents in conversations and events focused on community safety and wellbeing. Especially amongst our community residents who have experienced systemic racism. Empowering resident led approaches and enabling their voices to be heard.

Concern #3:

While working in both McQuesten and Keith communities I have heard stories first hand from many youth between the ages of 12-24, these stories involved their experiences with law enforcement, municipal services, and other publicly funded services.

Cause for Concern:

One, Youth who were sharing these experiences were sharing experiences that highlighted examples of structural racism and other forms of discriminations based on their identities. I would especially like to highlight that many discriminations were toward our LGBTQ+ populations.

Two, Youth did not feel safe sharing these experiences with individuals who were part of other systems including the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board as they have also faced similar structural racism and discrimination based on their identities within other services here in Hamilton.

Three, Youth felt comfortable sharing their experiences in community based programs but many of these programs are severely underfunded and struggle to maintain the capacity to offer these spaces.

Suggestions:

If and when reallocating funds we need to involve the community in evaluating where we are sending funds to ensure that we are not funding alternative systems with systemic racism and other forms of discrimination.

Communities should be consulted to identify priority service providers and organizations they feel confident can help ensure safety and wellbeing of their communities

Funds should be reallocated to grassroots organizations and service providers who are providing meaningful spaces for vulnerable people impacted by systemic racism and other forms of discrimination

A motion to evaluate our municipal government, our municipal services as well as other major service providers that are publicly funded to identify systemic racism and other forms of discrimination with a commitment to develop an action plan to eliminate systemic racism and other forms of discrimination from our city.

In conclusion I believe I have showcased some concerns as well as some suggestions to help guide discussions on and explain what I mean when I say I am for defunding the police. In saying that I would also like to express that when saying I am for defunding the police I am not saying I am for eliminating law enforcement. Mental health and wellness checks and community engagement to reduce crime should be reallocated to professionals in our city who are already doing that work. A major concern is that police are offering too many services, and many of those services are overlapping. In terms of systemic racism it is an issue facing multiple sectors within our city including but not limited to Hamilton Police Services and we as a city need to commit to fixing our systems to eliminate it.

Thank you,

Karlie Rogerson

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Monday, August 31, 2020 - 1:58 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Dan Carter

Name of Organization: CANADIAN HEMP FARMERS ALLIANCE

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:


Reason(s) for delegation request: Adopting hemp into the Canadian SDGs by making it a mandatory crop

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 9, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Tim Hortons Field – End Guard Anchor Repair/Replacement (PW20039(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rob Gatto (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5448 Janet Warner (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7044
SUBMITTED BY:	Rom D'Angelo Director, Energy, Fleet and Facilities Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the July 6, 2020 General Issues Committee, staff submitted a report titled Tim Hortons Field-End Guard Anchor Repair/Replacement, PW20039(a) which made the following recommendations:

- (a) That staff be directed to repair and /or replace the perimeter end guards that surround the upper bowl of the east and west stands, along with the north and south upper-lower end guards of Tim Hortons Field at an upset limit of \$1.1 million;
- (b) That Facilities Management use existing Capital Budget WIP'S through appropriation to fund this work by reprioritizing existing projects for the current year.

Council deferred the report for 30 days and directed staff to request an on-site review with both Infrastructure Ontario and the contractor Ontario Sports Solutions.

Staff followed up with an Information Report, titled Tim Hortons Field-End Guard Anchor Repair/Replacement PW20039(b) at the General Issues Committee on August 10, 2020 regarding correspondence between Infrastructure Ontario and the contractor Ontario Sports Solution.

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**SUBJECT: Tim Hortons Field – End Guard Anchor Repair/Replacement
(PW20039(c)) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

INFORMATION

Staff forwarded a letter of invitation to Infrastructure Ontario to come onsite at Tim Hortons Field to inspect the end guard conditions. IO responded that they do not have the technical expertise to comment, though IO extended an invitation to the contractor to attend the stadium which Ontario Sports Solution had accepted.

Staff met without prejudice on August 14, 2020 for a site inspection of the current end guard conditions, with the contractor Ontario Sports Solution, and the sub-contractor. The outcome of the meeting did not result in a resolution.

As the repair of the end panels is a worsening safety concern that must be remedied to avoid any potential personal injuries, staff recommends that Council approve Report PW20039(a) without delay and direct staff to undertake the proposed/recommended scope of work to the perimeter end guards that surround the upper bowl of the east and the west stands, along with the north and south upper-lower end guards of the stadium and approve use of the capital WIP funding for the said work.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not applicable.



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 9, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Encampment Update (HSC20038) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Grace Mater (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4979
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not applicable

INFORMATION

Encampments of street involved, or homeless individuals have been increasingly visible in the community over the past several months as has been the case in previous years but has proven to be particularly evident during the pandemic. Encampments are a complex issue, with multiple factors contributing to individuals staying outdoors. On an ongoing basis, City and homeless serving agency staff work from a person-centred approach to engage with individuals experiencing outdoor homelessness in order to refer and make connections to support and appropriate resources.

Currently there are 11 identified locations that the Encampment Task Force are focusing their energies towards.

Encampment Task Force

In order to respond through an integrated and collaborative approach, representatives from various City departments have been meeting on a regular basis since June 2018. This group is co-chaired by Housing Services Division and Public Health Services and includes representatives from various city departments: Housing Services; Municipal

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SUBJECT: Encampment Update (HSC20038) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 4

Law Enforcement; Parks; Waste; Animal Control; Communications, Hamilton Police Service (including Social Navigation Program), Waste Collections, and Parks and Cemeteries. The group also ensures collaboration and connection to community agencies which provide direct housing, emergency response, social, and mental health supports to those experiencing outdoor homelessness.

The Social Navigator Program (SNP) is the result of a partnership between Hamilton Police Service, Hamilton Paramedic Service, along with the City of Hamilton's Neighbourhood Development Strategies, and Urban Renewal Section of Economic Development. They developed an innovative program to refer "at risk" individuals and those who have had repeat interactions with the Hamilton Police Service, to appropriate health and social service. The SNP has acted as a vital part of the City's response to encampments by providing outreach and engagement support, in collaboration with the Mental Health Street Outreach Program. They have developed trusting relationships with individuals in encampments and have facilitated referrals to shelters and hotels.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the group is further supported by the implementation of a specific encampment case-conferencing table that includes City staff as well as front-line community supports. These groups work concurrently to facilitate increased connection to community agencies to provide direct housing support, emergency response, and social and mental health services to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. On an ongoing basis the City's encampment response focuses on identifying and aligning available resources, assessing and responding to potential health and safety risks, and facilitating person-centred engagement opportunities and individualized housing plans through connections to community-based supports.

The goal of this ongoing group is to ensure active encampment sites are known in a timely manner, allowing for person-centred engagement opportunities and individualized housing plans. This also provides an opportunity to identify gaps in response efforts and assess risk level of the encampment to determine steps that may need to be taken based on City of Hamilton By-Laws.

Task Force Details

- The group discusses details of the location, cleanliness, risk factors, number of individuals, whether the property is private or publicly owned etc. and agree upon next steps.
- The group's intent is not to identify encampments in order to dismantle, but rather to provide an opportunity to engage with clients and provide linkages to supports.
- Timeframes are determined for engagement and the site discussed at the next scheduled meeting.
- Should a site be determined as high risk and cannot remain, a date for dismantling is determined.

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SUBJECT: Encampment Update (HSC20038) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 4

- The date always provides an opportunity to notify residents that a dismantle date has been set (often two weeks time).
- Outreach staff ensure residents are aware and any potential emergency shelter space is accessed, or other options pursued; staff also request details of where the individuals may go so follow up can occur.
- A clean up date is set by the group and all departments schedule response for which they are responsible.
- Important to note that this process of giving residents notification is widely adopted as best practice, should a site be set for dismantling.
- This process and approach of the Encampment Working Group was presented to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in June 2019 (Report HSC19029).
- A follow up report was planned for spring 2020.
- Onset of pandemic delayed follow up report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

City of Hamilton's work to address homelessness

- City acts as system service manager for homelessness response;
- Receives federal and provincial homelessness funding, to be administered locally dependent upon need and in line with funding parameters/guidelines;
- Funding is provided through contractual agreements with community partners, for specific intervention types (i.e. shelters; outreach; intensive case management; rapid re-housing; etc.);
- Contracts also dictate expected target outcomes for each program and ongoing monitoring of success;
- City relies on a coordinated access system design in order to ensure individuals accessing the system are assessed using a standard assessment tool and based on results, the individual is triaged to the appropriate intervention;
- Use of a By-Name List as part of coordinated access system ensure that all individuals who are accessing service and willing to provide consent to engage are known to the system; and,
- City uses data collected through all means in order to advocate for additional funding, address pressures in specific areas, adjust programming to meet demand, and ensure a robust response with as many interventions & supports possible.

Role of Community Partners

- Social Navigator Program has assisted by acting as a second outreach team, engaging individuals and exploring options, including referrals to shelters and hotels.
- Wesley, have redeployed staff to assist Day Centre staff to support individuals at the Ferguson site – checking in, monitoring for overdoses.

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SUBJECT: Encampment Update (HSC20038) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 4

- Good Shepherd – is providing support staff for checking in and monitoring similar to Wesley, at the First Ontario Centre site.
- Keeping Six/HamSmart – City is coordinating efforts with Keeping Six to allow for safer collection of garbage & waste, leveraging their trusted relations with individuals in encampment to avoid or defuse incidents while City staff perform their role.
- Keeping Six participate in the committees and a weekly community call. The purpose is to maintain lines of communication to avoid duplication of services or conflicting case planning with clients; no ‘politics’ or discussion of the injunction occurs. This has provided a mechanism to disseminate information to clients on housing options available - shelter/hotel spaces available instead of encampments.

Committee Structure to Support Housing System

Currently there are five committees/taskforces that City staff along with community partners utilize with respect to addressing homelessness :

- Women’s Housing Planning Collaborative (WHPC) – women’s system strategic planning table
- Men’s Emergency System Coordination Committee (MESCC) – men’s system strategic planning table
- Coordinated Access Planning Group – internal staff planning committee
- Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Advisory Group
- Homelessness Funding Implementation Group (HFIG) – advisory committee on funding and program approvals

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None