



**City of Hamilton**  
**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**ADDENDUM**

**Meeting #:** 21-010  
**Date:** May 5, 2021  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall (CC)

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

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**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- \*5.2. Correspondence from Viv Saunders respecting ~ 22+% Increase on Final Tax Bills for 6000 Properties in Ward 10 and 11

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 10.5.

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- \*6.1. Bianca Caramento, Bay Area Climate Change Council, to support the staff recommendations for an FCM application in the report titled - Bay Area Detailed Design for a Flexible Deep Energy Retrofit Program; and, to provide context for the BACCC"s

supporting activities for the application.

(For the May 19, 2021 GIC)

- \*6.2. Leo Johnson, Executive Director of Empowerment Squared, respecting the Emerging Needs Arising in the Newcomer, Racialized and Marginalized Community, as a Result of COVID-19

(For the May 19, 2021 GIC)

**From:** Viv Saunders <>  
**Sent:** May 4, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** DL - Council Only <[dlcouncilonly@hamilton.ca](mailto:dlcouncilonly@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Cc:** Zegarac, Mike <[Mike.Zegarac@hamilton.ca](mailto:Mike.Zegarac@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: ~ 22+% increase on Final Tax Bills for 6000 properties in Ward 10 and 11 ???

Dear Honourable Mayor & Council,

Further to my email on April 18th which is on the Council Agenda for tomorrow, I've done some further digging on what was approved by Council previously as well as read through most of the 10 year plan for HFS.

**I don't understand why (as per the Attached Appendix), Council are set to approve charging urban rates to an area that is serviced by 2 volunteer stations?**

It appears we have 3 Levels of Service for Fire delivery (urban, rural & surburban aka composite in Upper Stoney Creek, Waterdown and Ancaster) with only 2 Levels of Service in our Taxation Policy (urban and rural).

This conflict between service & taxation combined with a 'special one-off', will result in a significant increase in taxation to the rural properties city-wide, as well as in area of Ward 10 .... even though the operating costs/financial impacts of the 10 years plan have been in Upper Stoney Creek and Waterdown.

As a refresher, in 2019 the 10 Year plan included the following:

Waterdown - **hire** 5 additional FTEs in 2020, increase Volunteer Staff from 25 to 40 ; proceed with a process of building a new station. **No changes to expand the urban boundary for tax purposes.**

Upper Stoney Creek - **hire** 5 additional FTEs in 2020, increase Volunteer Staff from 25 to 40; and **expand the urban fire boundary** for tax purposes.

Lower Stoney Creek - **no new hires** in 2020, replace the Ladder with a multi-purpose pumper, continue to "*service the area as a Volunteer Response area but for purposes of analysis it will be considered a composite area*". (Page 71 of 292); and use both of the volunteer stations to service a combined area instead of the 2 separate areas. In other words, **expand the urban boundary for tax purposes** regardless of the fact that lower Stoney Creek doesn't have a composite station and zero FTEs were hired in 2019 or 2020.

The operating impacts of the additional FTEs in Waterdown & Upper Stoney Creek was projected to add just less than \$1M to the overall HFD budget in 2020.

The boundary changes before Council tomorrow, if approved, for the most part has properties outside of the impacted area absorbing the greatest % of the cost.

Specifically, the Winona area (**+91% in fire levies\***) as well as the rural properties in Wards 9, 11, 12, and 13 (**+60% in fire levies estimated\*\***)

As per page 72 of the 10 year HFS plan presented in June 2019, a further assessment of the impacts to area rating was intended prior to Council approving changes to the Fire Boundaries.

While I can appreciate that the urban property owners are celebrating a .5% reduction in overall property taxes, I would respectfully request that Council consider a more detailed assessment be conducted prior to the decision to amend the boundaries .

Sincerely,

Viv Saunders

\* Oops! Previously, it appears that I did one step twice & therefore did a miscalculation that gave the impression the increase would be 11%/22%. My apologies. A 91% to 102% increase in fire tax levies will result in about a 4% increase due to Tax Policy Change; overall a 5.6% annual increase & an 11.2% increase in the final tax bills for those Ward 10 properties, including Mom & Pop businesses as well as industrial.

\*\* Please note, that the 2.6% change in the tables is the bottomline city services increase due to the fire boundary changes. The actual fire levies, based on my limited resources, will be increased by ~ 60% in the rural areas of Ward 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15 with the loss of the Ward 10 rural assessment values..

On Sun, Apr 18, 2021 at 10:08 AM Viv Saunders < > wrote:

Dear Honourable Mayor & Council Members,

I've read the recent articles in the Hamilton News & the Public Record as well as the March 29th Communication Update titled 2021 Tax Impacts due to Area Rating ([2021 Tax Impacts due to Area Rating \(hamilton.ca\)](#) ) which was/is scheduled to be discussed at the GIC Meeting this week, April 21st.

What isn't apparent to me in the report or in the Tables attached, is clarity of the impact to those 6000 properties that are moving from Rural fire tax levies to Urban fire tax levies.

Based on my analysis, which I hope is proven wrong, those 5,200 residential properties (of which 4,347 are in Ward 10) impacted by the change in Tax Policy, will experience:

- a .5% reduction due to Area Rating
- a 2.3% increase due to Budget; as well as
- a 9.1% increase due to Tax Policy change (Table 1, Page 2 of 3)

While I appreciate there is no way around this - In total, an ~ 11% increase in those homeowners annual 2021 property taxes will result in an ~22% increase in their final 2021 tax bills over their interim 2021 tax bill. I didn't calculate it out, but presumably the impact to the 800 businesses will be roughly 2x or 3x these residential % increases.

As I stated previously, I hope I have incorrectly calculated out what isn't clear to me from the report, but if I have Council & property owners should have a clear understanding of what the full impacts are of

approving Tax Policy changes (redrawing boundary lines) .... prior to but more so, after approving the final budget.

Even though I honestly believe the boundaries for Fire Services (inclusive of Waterdown & Ancaster though) should have been keeping pace with Growth with slight modifications occurring over the last 20 years, I'm wondering if there is an alternative that might be considered such as phased in levies?

In my respectful submission, for obvious reasons, Council might want to give pause on approving the Tax Policy change in full at this time.

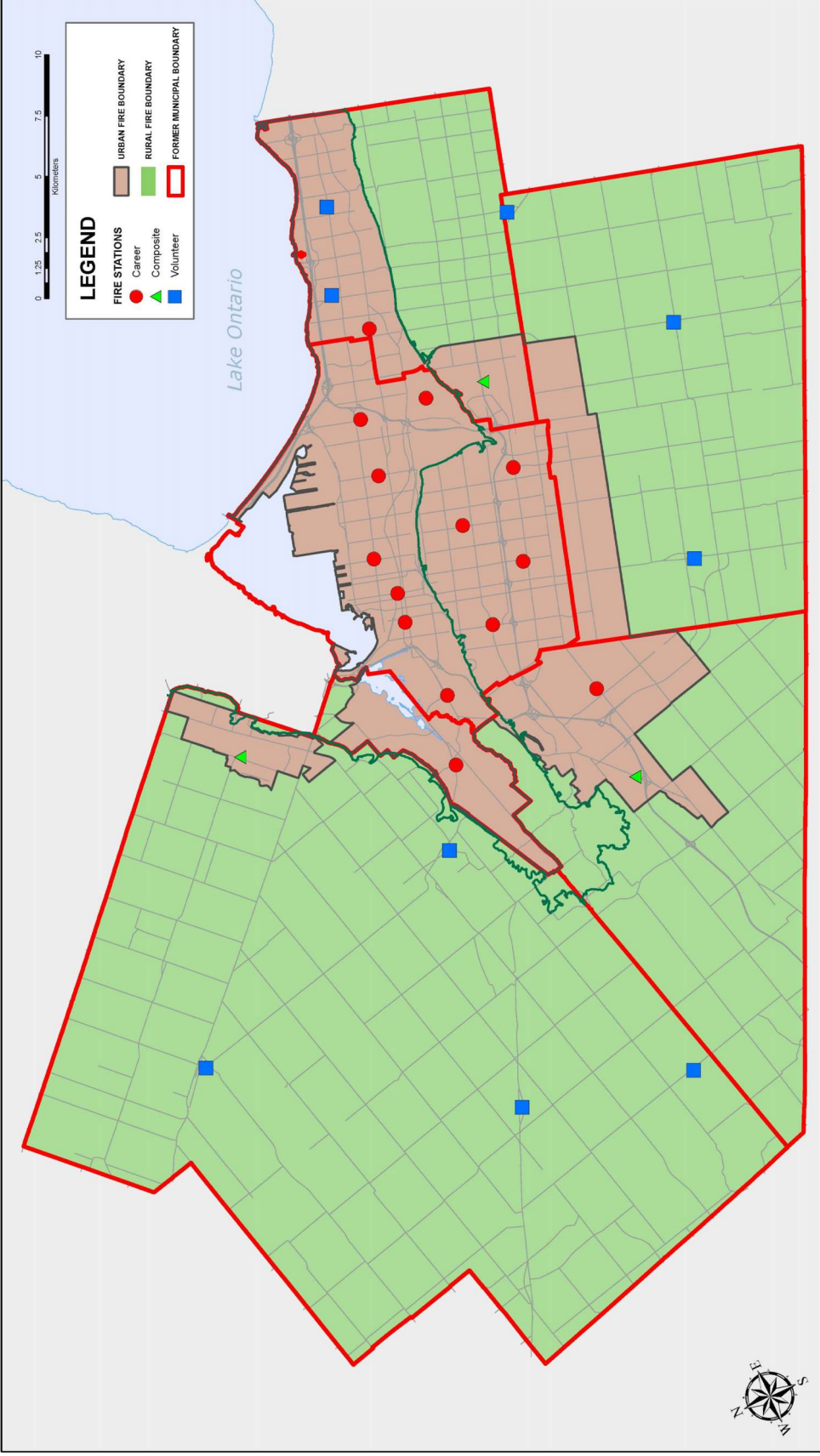
Sincerely,

Viv Saunders

P.S. It would help with transparency & comprehension, if a Mapping of the locations of only the 6,000 properties in Ward 10 & 11 impacted by this change in service is also part of the communication to Council; and by extension the public. Is it possible to have that included in the report please?

P.P.S Don't tell my husband I wrote this, he wouldn't be pleased that I'm questioning/opposing something that would see us personally get a .5% reduction in our 2021 2.1% property tax increase. 😊

### CITY OF HAMILTON - URBAN / RURAL FIRE AREA RATING



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\\s0102\services\Service Requests\Items\Corporate Services\Current Budget\Fire Response Transition\Urban Fire Area\_APR\_13\_2021.mxd / pdf

## Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Thursday, April 22, 2021 - 9:15 am

==Committee Requested==

**Committee:** General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

**Name of Individual:** Bianca Caramento

**Name of Organization:** Bay Area Climate Change Council  
(BACCC)

**Contact Number:** (905)575-1212 EXT 4938

**Email Address:** [b.caramento@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:b.caramento@bayareaclimate.ca)

**Mailing Address:**

135 Fennell Avenue West, Hamilton ON L9C 0E9

**Reason(s) for delegation request:**

\*NOTE: THIS REQUEST IS FOR GIC ON MAY 19TH, 2021\*

To support the staff recommendations for an FCM application in the report titled: Bay Area Detailed Design for a Flexible Deep Energy Retrofit Program.

Provide context for BACCC supporting activities for the application.

**Will you be requesting funds from the City?** No

**Will you be submitting a formal presentation?** Yes

Submitted on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 8:42am

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Joana Fezaj

Name of Organization: Empowerment Squared

Contact Number: 9055189160

Email Address: joana.fezaj@empowermentsquared.org

Mailing Address: 162 King William St, Suite 103

Reason(s) for delegation request:

Good morning Stephanie.

Leo Johnson, Executive Director of Empowerment Squared met with Councillors N.Naan (Ward 3) and M.Wilson (Ward 1) to discuss the emerging needs arising in the newcomer, racialize, and marginalized communities as a result of Covid-19. In the past year, Empowerment Squared has conducted bi-weekly assessments identifying that food insecurity, and access to technology and reliable internet is resulting in children not attending school. There is a crisis brewing in the community and it is our responsibility and duty to report the findings to Council hence why councillor Naan and Wilson have recommended that Leo Johnson present the findings at the GIC meeting on May 17. A presentation will be available highlighting the quantitative data of the challenges and barriers that youth are facing as a result of Covid-19 aligning with the City's Youth Action Strategy.

Stephanie is there anything else that you need on our end at this time before we can move forward with the May 17 request? Please confirm receipt of this email so we can ensure that it has been delivered to the right person.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes