



**City of Hamilton**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA**

**Meeting #:** 23-006  
**Date:** May 15, 2023  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West

Matt Gauthier, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 6437

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**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with \*)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

**4. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

4.1 Delegation Requests, respecting 2023 Hamilton Community Heat Response Plan (BOH23019) (City Wide) (for today's meeting)

a. Stewart Klazinga, ACORN Hamilton - East End Chapter (virtual)

b. Damien Ash, ACORN (in-person)

**5. DELEGATIONS**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS**

6.1 2023 Hamilton Community Heat Response Plan (BOH23019) (City Wide)

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**From:** City of Hamilton <[hello@hamilton.ca](mailto:hello@hamilton.ca)>

**Sent:** May 4, 2023 8:51 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Thu, 05/04/2023 - 20:50

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

## Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

## Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Stewart Klazinga



Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

To speak on the need for a Maximum Heat by-law.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

**From:** City of Hamilton <[hello@hamilton.ca](mailto:hello@hamilton.ca)>

**Sent:** May 9, 2023 4:34 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Tue, 05/09/2023 - 16:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

## Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

## Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Damien Ash

ACORN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

On the importance of passing an extreme heat bylaw

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Public Health Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	May 15, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	2023 Hamilton Community Heat Response Plan (BOH23019) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Shelley Rogers (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1275 Matt Lawson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5823
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Kevin McDonald Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

## INFORMATION

This report provides information related to the 2023 Hamilton Community Heat Response Plan (see Appendix “A” to Public Health Committee Report BOH23019) and work presently being undertaken to develop a Heat Response Strategy in alignment with the City of Hamilton’s 2022 Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan<sup>1</sup>.

### Background

For 2023, Public Health Services’ Healthy Environments Division assumed responsibility for coordinating the Community Heat Response Committee and for updating the Community Heat Response Plan for the current year.

The Community Heat Response Plan involves multiple City department divisions as well as community partner agencies and service providers. Public Health Services monitors weather forecasts and communications issued by Environment Canada regarding initiated Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings. When a Heat Warning or

<sup>1</sup> Appendix “D” to Report CM22016/PED22058(a)/HSC22030(a) - City of Hamilton Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan, 2022. <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=335322>.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Extended Heat Warning is issued by Environment Canada, Public Health Services amplifies the warning by providing communication internally, to community partners, local media outlets and updates the City of Hamilton website for public information. The partnering agencies and services providers of the Community Heat Response Committee then implement the Community Heat Response Plan according to their defined roles and responsibilities.

Examples of actions taken when a Heat Warning or an Extended Heat Warning is issued include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Public Health Services' Healthy Environments Division sends out notification of the Heat Warning or Extended Heat Warning via the "Rave Alert" messaging system to community partners and external stakeholders as well as an email notification of the Heat Warning to members of Council, internal departments and local news media outlets;
- Partnering agencies and service providers offer "cooling spaces" where members of the public are invited to come spend time in order to reduce their exposure to the heat;
- Public Health Services monitors and assesses surveillance data from hospitals and health sector agencies with respect to community health impacts resulting from extreme heat;
- Activation of the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) may occur if there is a need to discuss further interventions. Note: Only members of the EOC Management Team may request the activation of the EOC (virtual activation could also be considered);
- Scheduled public, family, adult and senior swims are provided free-of-charge, at City of Hamilton indoor and outdoor pools (capacity limits in effect); Recreation's "Supie" Program remains operational but modified to a more passive nature; and
- Mobile water is distributed by the Salvation Army in the downtown core.

Other interventions in response to extreme heat have been initiated beyond the Community Heat Response Plan. Ontario Works provides a discretionary, one-time benefit issued to recipients of social assistance living independently in the community and who have a documented severe medical condition where, without air-conditioning in a medical professional's opinion, their condition would be negatively impacted. The City of Hamilton does not cover the cost of air-conditioners for low-income residents.

Also, Public Health Services is working with local housing support agencies to provide educational webinars about heat-related illness to local landlords and property management companies regarding what they should know about extreme heat events and how to protect tenants during these events.

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Updated information regarding the status of Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings, Cool Place locations and hours of operation, and information about the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness can be found on the City's "Heat Warnings and Heat-Related Illness" webpage (<https://www.hamilton.ca/heat>).

### **Extreme Heat Adaptation Actions and Next Steps**

The City of Hamilton Climate Science Report<sup>2</sup> predicts that the number of consecutive days that the temperature rises above 30°C will increase and that heat waves, defined as three days or more where the temperature is over 30°C or 40 on the humidex scale, will be more frequent as well as temperatures over 35°C. Older adults and especially the vulnerable and frail elderly are the most at risk to be hospitalized and die because of factors related to heat.

In 2022, Public Health Services completed an "Advancing Adaptation" pilot project, which was funded through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Canada by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, alongside financial support from the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Public Health Services staff worked with the members of the Just Recovery Network who had delivered a series of webinars for Hamilton residents on extreme heat to assess their interest in participating in such an initiative. An Extreme Heat Working Group was formed consisting of community organizations such as Environment Hamilton, Hamilton Round Table for Poverty Reduction, Associate of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, as well as members of the Seniors' Advisory Committee. Public Health Services worked with CityHousing Hamilton to consult with tenants in four buildings to determine interventions to prevent heat related illness. Furniture was provided to make cooling rooms more comfortable for tenants and fifty air conditioning units were purchased for tenants who were at high risk of heat related illness. This intervention was completed using 'one-time' funding and will not be available for additional purchase of air conditioning units or to fund other interventions.

This past March 2023, Public Health Services was tasked with coordinating the 2023 Community Heat Response Committee, updating the Community Heat Response Plan, as needed, and producing a Public Health Committee recommendation report for Q1 2024 detailing a Heat Response Strategy 2024-2027 for the City of Hamilton. The Heat Response Strategy will include an updated Heat Response Plan and interventions identified in the City of Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> City of Hamilton Climate Science Report.

<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-10/climate-change-impact-adapatation-plan-science-report.pdf>

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Actions identified in the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan are:

- Action 3.1 (ID#6): Develop and implement a response program for vulnerable populations to protect residents from climate-related risks (i.e. extreme cold, extreme heat, etc.);
- Action 3.2 (ID#7): Consolidate existing vulnerable persons' contact lists and update/expand them to guide emergency response and/or other assistance programs;
- Action 3.3 (ID#8): Coordinate local efforts to address excessive indoor temperatures in rental housing;
- Action 4.3 (ID#12): Establish buddy systems/help-your-neighbour programs to implement during extreme weather events;
- Action 6.2 (ID#15): Explore opportunities to expand current cooling & warming centre programming and interventions; and,
- Action 6.3 (ID#15): Improve monitoring, data collection, and notification surrounding flooding & extreme weather/temperatures.

As part of the City's recovery from the pandemic, it will be important to assign a consistent lead to this work. The City of Hamilton department/division responsible for the overall coordination of the Heat Response Strategy will be identified in the recommendations to Public Health Committee in Q1 2024. The execution of the Heat Response Strategy will be an inter-departmental initiative involving multiple community partners. Evidence-informed decision making will be used to determine the most effective and sustainable methods for implementing the identified actions and interventions to protect people from the harms of extreme heat exposure. Literature reviews, environmental scans and best practices analyses concerning community-based extreme heat responses are being conducted by Public Health Services to inform the Heat Response Strategy. The recommended actions and interventions will be adapted and applied to Hamilton's local context.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report BOH23019:

City of Hamilton Community Heat Response Plan, May 2023



Hamilton

# **CITY OF HAMILTON COMMUNITY HEAT RESPONSE PLAN**

**May 2023**

Healthy & Safe Communities Department



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## **Introduction**

Hot weather can contribute to the development of heat-related illness to the general population. Some groups, including seniors, young children, and people with pre-existing medical conditions, may be less able to cope and acclimatize to hot weather conditions, and are considered as having an increased risk of showing signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

The City of Hamilton, in consultation with community partners, has developed the Community Heat Response Plan to help citizens cope with intense heat events. The Community Heat Response Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) alerts the public that hot weather conditions are imminent or occurring and outline services that will be provided to Hamilton residents. The goal is to provide support and information for those most at-risk of heat-related illness.

The heat season is from Victoria Day Weekend to Labour Day Weekend however it is dependent on the weather patterns hence this plan could be activated outside of this time.

### **Background**

This initiative was developed collaboratively by agencies in Hamilton, forming the Community Heat Response Committee (CHRC) in 2002. All agencies participating in the development of this initiative have agreed to voluntarily provide services during a Heat Warning, or an Extended Heat Warning. Since the introduction of the Plan in 2008, several heat events have tested the effectiveness of existing services and the merit of the Plan. The Plan has proved to be successful in helping citizens safely respond to these events.

### **Purpose**

The Plan provides a framework for the coordination and implementation of hot weather response activities aimed at reducing the impact of intense heat events on the population.

## **Plan Review and Maintenance**

The Community Heat Response Plan (The Plan) will be reviewed on an annual basis. Prior to the heat season, the CHRC meets to review The Plan, adjust any operational details and update contact information and committee partners, as needed. Following each heat season, the CHRC meets in order to debrief on challenges, concerns and successes identified during the heat season and to provide recommendations for improvements to the Plan.

In 2023, Public Health Services – Healthy Environments Division (PHS – HED) is responsible for the maintenance of The Plan and oversight of the CHRC.

## Pre-Heat Season Activities

Prior to each heat season the CHRC will:

- Meet to ensure that CHRC members understand signs and symptoms of heat-related illness and that each partner agency has their own heat response plan and/or understands their operational role during a Heat Warning, or Extended Heat Warning;
- Distribute a promotional materials order form to internal and community partners to be returned to PHS – HED for ordering;
- Update contact list of CHRC members and community partners to receive notifications of Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings;

Prior to each heat season PHS - HED will:

- Provide heat-related illness information sessions for applicable City departments and community partners;
- Distribute promotional awareness information materials to City and community partners as requested;
- Update the “Rave Alert” notification system list of City and community partners for communicating Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings

## **Concept of Operations – Thresholds to Activate the Heat Response Plan**

The Plan consists of 3 stages: Heat Warning, Extended Heat Warning, and a stand-down stage. PHS – HED monitors Environment Canada's temperature and humidex forecasts during the summer months. If it is determined that a response is required, cool place operators, community agencies, and the public are notified, and response action undertaken as outlined below.

### Heat Warning

A Heat Warning is issued when there are two or more consecutive days forecasted with daytime highs greater than or equal to 31°C and nighttime lows greater than or equal to 20°C **or** a Humidex of 40°C or greater.

When a Heat Warning is issued the following actions are undertaken:

- PHS - HED sends out notification of the Heat Warning via the “Rave Alert” messaging system to community partners and external stakeholders as well as an internal email notification of the Heat Warning to internal partners and local media;

- Scheduled public, family, adult and senior swims will be free of charge, at indoor and outdoor pools (capacity limits in effect as per Public Health Guidelines);
- Participating City and community partners offer spaces as 'cooling places';
- Recreation "Supie" Programs will remain operational but modify program to a more passive nature;
- Mobile water distribution by the Salvation Army in downtown core

#### Extended Heat Warning

An Extended Heat Warning is issued when there are three or more consecutive days observed with daytime highs greater than or equal to 31°C and nighttime lows greater than or equal to 20°C or a Humidex of 40°C or greater

When an Extended Heat Warning is issued the following actions are undertaken:

- PHS - HED sends out notification of the Extended Heat Warning event via the "Rave Alert" messaging system to community partners and external stakeholders as well as an internal email notification to internal partners and local media;
- Activation of the City Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) may occur if there is a need to discuss further interventions. Note: only members of the EOC Management Team may request the activation of the EOC (virtual activation could be considered);
- PHS will monitor and assess surveillance data from hospitals and health sector agencies with respect to any community health impact;
- The CHRC Chair will send an email to the members during business hours each day in an Extended Heat Warning, to facilitate the sharing of operational data. Emergencies that occur outside of Monday to Friday business hours are directed to the attention of PHS and the on-call Communications staff or in accordance with the Community Partner's internal procedure;
- Scheduled public, family, adult and senior swims will be free of charge at indoor and outdoor pools (capacity limits in effect as per Public Health Guidelines);
- All wading pools (except for Dundas Driving Park) are closed during an Extended Heat Warning. Community members can visit an indoor/outdoor pool or spray pad;
- Recreation's "Supie" Programs will remain operational but modify programming to a more passive nature;

- Mobile water distribution by the Salvation Army in downtown core

#### Stand Down

When the conditions of a Heat Warning or Extended Heat Warning break and are no longer met, a “Stand Down” is initiated.

When the Stand Down is called the following actions are undertaken:

- PHS - HED issues a cancellation notification of the Heat Warning or the Extended Heat Warning to staff, community partners, external stakeholders and local media;
- all City and community partner agencies return to normal operating procedures;

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### Healthy & Safe Communities Department

##### Public Health Services

Schedule and facilitate meetings of the CHRC;

- Monitor weather forecasts and communications from Environment Canada for Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings to be issued;
- Send out notifications of the Heat Warning or Extended Heat Warning via internal email to staff, other internal partners, and local media. Notify external partners and stakeholders via “Rave Alert” notification system;
- Update stage status on City website ([www.hamilton.ca/heat](http://www.hamilton.ca/heat)) to reflect current stage of the plan;
- Print and distribute promotional awareness information material to community partners as requested;
- Respond to media requests related to the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness;
- Communicate with CHRC partners during an Extended Heat Warning to learn of any concerns and/or opportunities related to the Heat Response Plan for review and discussion among the CHRC members;

##### Recreation

- Operate City-owned recreation centres as cool places;
- Distribute and communicate information to the public at recreation centres;

- Post “Cool Down Here” and “Tips for Beating the Heat” signs in visible locations at recreation centres for the duration of the heat season;
- Scheduled public, family, adult and senior swims will be free of charge at indoor and outdoor pools during Heat Warning and Extended Heat Warning (capacity limits in effect as per Public Health Guidelines);
- Suspend outdoor recreation programs and wading pools when appropriate;
- Respond to media inquiries related to recreation facilities and related programming;

#### Paramedic Services

- Through social media, send heat-related information and tips to keep cool for the general public.
- Respond to health-related issues as appropriate
- Increase staffing as required

#### Public Works Department

##### Parks and Cemeteries

- Extend splash pad hours of operations, as required;
- Ensure drinking water fountains are operational and information re: locations is updated on City website

#### City Manager’s Office

##### Communications

- Triage internal and external communications related to media enquiries and distribute proactive communications on social media channels;
- Update information on the City’s website ([www.hamilton.ca/heat](http://www.hamilton.ca/heat)) regarding, cool tips, cool places, etc.

#### Human Resources

- Distribute information via email to staff with respect to employee health and wellness during extreme heat episodes;
- Handle all employee work refusal issues related to heat;
- Incorporate Heat and Sun Safety and UV Radiation Guidelines into orientation sessions where applicable

#### Hamilton Public Library

- Library branches will act as 'cooling' places for residents during regular business hours

#### Community Partners - "Cooling" Place Agencies

- Operate as a cooling place for the public and/or clientele
- Distribute information to the public
- Post "Cool Down Here" and "Tips to Beat the Heat" signs in visible locations for the duration of the heat season;
- Liaise with PHS – HED staff regarding heat impacts to their clientele;
- Salvation Army – mobile water distribution in downtown core