

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Chair and Members Planning Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> WARDS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> September 7, 2011	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Project Compliance Update (PED10049(f)) (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Tim McCabe General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Marty Hazell 905-546-2424 Ext.4588
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

City Council, on March 31, 2010, approved an 18 month Proactive By-law Enforcement Pilot Program for Wards 1 to 8 (subsequently named "Project Compliance") consisting of six temporary part-time Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and a temporary full-time Clerk. In accordance with Council direction, *"the cost of the pilot, estimated to be \$598,000, is being financed from the Parking Reserve #108021, with any fees and fines from the program being returned to the Reserve to off-set the costs."*

## Information:

The 18 month pilot, which commenced in June 2010, was to assist in investigating the feasibility of regulating residential rental housing in Hamilton. Staff has committed to providing regular updates to the Planning Committee, the last being on July 5, 2011, with respect to key performance indicators such as cost recovery and by-law compliance. The final update to the Planning Committee is scheduled for October 2011 before the pilot concludes at the end of November 2011, but at this point, staff has already reached the following conclusions:

- the results significantly advance the City's goals towards a safe and healthy Community;
- significant deficiencies in rental housing are being identified through proactive enforcement, and some sort of pro-activity is required to continue exposing these deficiencies; and,

- proactive enforcement/inspections as are currently being conducted by "Project Compliance" will not achieve full cost recovery.

At the August 8, 2011 meeting, the Planning Committee requested an information report on the feasibility of extending the pilot through the 2012 budget process rather than to terminate the program at the end of November 2011.

The cost of the pilot is approximately \$33,000 per month. Therefore, extending the pilot through to the end of March 2012 (four months) would require funding an additional \$132,000 from the Parking Reserve #108021, and there are adequate funds available as the Reserve balance is \$3,418,369.17 at the time this Report was written.

In staff's opinion, extending the pilot by four months would be prudent in order to allow Planning Committee and Council sufficient time to complete the investigation into the feasibility of regulating residential rental housing before eliminating the proactive enforcement effort.

MH/dt