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From: Hamilton Civic League [<mailto:hamiltoncivicleague@gmail.com>]

Sent: February-25-15 12:20 PM

To: Caterini, Rose; clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Duvall, Scott; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi; Office of the Mayor; Paparella, Stephanie

Subject: Request for External Audit of the Hamilton Police Services

Dear Ms. Caterini:

During the GIC meeting held on the afternoon of Tuesday February 24th, 2015, I identified numerous accounting irregularities within the 2015 police budget. I formally requested Council to authorize an external audit of the Hamilton Police Services and I offered to cover the associated costs.

Councillor Merulla stated that Council does not have the authority to request an external audit; however I believe he is incorrect. Council can only approve or reject HPS budgets, according to section 39(4) of the Police Services Act, but cannot dictate how the budget is allocated. In this case, HPS would not be directed to pay for an external audit. There is nothing within the Municipal Act or Police Services Act that precludes Council from authorizing an external audit.

The HPS budget is set at approximately 154 million dollars. At 8 to 10 percent of the total budget, it represents the City's single largest operating expenditure. Agencies with much smaller budgets such as **the Hamilton Public Library are legislated to conduct an annual external audit and external audits are conducted for BIA's where legislation does not exist.**

With the potential for arbitration on the horizon, there could not be a better time to conduct an external audit of the HPS budget. Taxpayers should no longer be kept in the dark when full financial transparency and accountability can be achieved at no cost to the HPS or City.

Once again, I formally request Council to authorize an external audit of the HPS and my offer to cover the costs stands.

Best regards,

Larry Pomerantz
Chair, Hamilton Civic League
905-545-5577

P.S. I am pleased to include the following link to a resolution moved by Councillor Merulla in support of greater governance over the

HPSB. http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/3799E9A2-8BD0-4D35-A629-F1CCEAC540EE/0/May2271_Motion_Hamilton_Police_Services_Board_Governance.pdf