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Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Members of Hamilton City Council
The Corporation of the City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

July 2, 2015

Dear Worship and Members of City Council:

On behalf of the coalition for Hamilton's People's Platform, I want to thank you for the invitation to appear before the General Issues Committee of Council a second time this year and for the opportunity to respond to your questions.

Our platform represents the combined input of hundreds of Hamiltonians and ten not-for-profit organizations. It spans a wide range of social, political, and economic concerns among residents, and it contains fruitful suggestions for public policy.

The People's Platform is an unprecedented experiment in civic engagement that has attracted interest from coast to coast. Communities across Canada are interested in organizing their own People's Platform process, and a campaign for the federal election is underway. We are proud that this movement began in Hamilton.

We are grateful that nine members of City Council participated in our Hamilton campaign, and we hope they will continue to support direct public participation in the policy-making process.

Enclosed is a monitoring report that highlights motions by City Council relating to our platform proposals. We are encouraged by early signs of harmony, but we note that thirty-seven of our proposals have not received any attention.

We ask that Council examine the platform proposals through its standing committees and consider actions that it could take to advance them.

We will continue to monitor motions by City Council and report on members' efforts to advance the platform proposals that they supported during the election. We look forward to working with you over the next three years to keep the public informed of the status of the platform.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions directly. I hope this letter reinforces the cordial relationship that we have enjoyed since the election. We remain available for further assistance on other questions, and look forward to hearing from Council on its decision regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Norman Kearney
Director, Hamilton Campaign

Draft Resolution

Whereas, a coalition of ten not-for-profit organizations facilitated participation by hundreds of residents in the creation of a Peoples' Platform during the 2014 Hamilton municipal election; and,

Whereas, the Peoples' Platform - Hamilton (2014) ("the Platform") was created in an impartial, transparent, and participatory way; and,

Whereas, nine members of City Council ("Council") indicated their support for some of the 44 proposals that comprise the Platform; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Council refer the proposals to Standing Committees (as specified in the Appendix) for consideration of possible recommendations to Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Council work with The People's Platform to keep the public informed of the status of the platform; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Standing Committees bear the proposals in mind whenever relevant to recommendations that they make to Council, and that Council bear the same in mind whenever relevant to the actions that it considers taking.