



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Growth Management Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Planning Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 6, 2015
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Proposal to Rename Windermere Road to Steel City Court, Hamilton (PED15146) (Ward 4)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 4
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Paul Toffoletti (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4348
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That Windermere Road, in the former City of Hamilton, be renamed “Steel City Court” as identified on Appendix “A” to Report PED15146;
- (b) That the draft By-law, attached as Appendix “F” to Report PED15146, which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be enacted by City Council.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this Report is to address the concerns of having three streets with similar names. Windermere Road is located in the Hamilton industrial area near Parkdale Avenue North (see Appendix “A” to Report PED15146). Windemere Road (without the “r”) is a residential street generally located along Lake Ontario just east of Fifty Road (see Appendix “B” to Report PED15146). Windermere Avenue located on the Beach Strip is also a residential street (see Appendix “C” to Report PED15146).

The reason for renaming Windermere Road to Steel City Court is that transport trucks, heading for the industrial area, are misguided by faulty and incorrect GPS software or internet mapping that mistakes Windemere Road for Windermere Road. This information guides them to exit at Fifty Road and drive through residential areas to get to Windemere Road. Once they reach the end of the road and become aware that there is a mistake, it is very difficult for the transport trucks to back up or turn around (see Appendices “D” and “E” to Report PED15146).

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As a result, there are serious safety and property damage issues with respect to these trucks turning around and backing up, and the roads ability to handle the weight of the transport trucks. In addition, the City of Hamilton could be held libel to any legal actions from the residents.

In consultation with the Councillors in Wards 4 and 11, it was agreed that the best course of action is to change the street name of Windermere Road in the Hamilton industrial area to Steel City Court. Emergency Services are also in favour of the recommendation. The address numbers will remain the same.

Therefore, it is recommended that Windermere Road be renamed Steel City Court.

***Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4***

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** Two street signs will need to be manufactured and installed at a cost of approximately \$800. There are costs associated with placing an advertisement in The Hamilton Spectator at a value of approximately \$500.

**Staffing:** None

**Legal:** None

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Windermere Road is generally located just north of Burlington Street East and east of Parkdale Avenue North (see Appendix “A” to Report PED15146), and is within an industrial area. Windemere Road (without the “r”) is a residential street generally located along Lake Ontario just east of Fifty Road (see Appendix “B” to Report PED15146) with 27 single-detached dwellings. There is also a third road named Windermere Avenue located on the Beach Strip and is a residential street with 12 single detached dwellings (see Appendix “C” to Report PED15146).

There has been an ongoing problem with the transport trucks trying to find Windermere Road in the Hamilton industrial area, but end up exiting the QEW at Fifty Road and travelling through a residential area to get to Windemere Road. Once the driver recognizes that something is wrong, they have to try to back up or drive over private property to turn around and get out. This is a serious safety issue for the residents, especially those with small children. The transport trucks have also caused damage to yards, and place excess pressure on the roadway not designed for these types of vehicles (see Appendices “D” and “E” to Report PED15146).

This problem has persisted for a long time. Staff who worked at the City of Stoney Creek in the late 1990s recall residents in the area raising concerns. It was felt that it would be easier for the City of Hamilton to change the name of Windermere Road, thus requiring only two or three companies to change their address, rather than the City of Stoney Creek changing the name of Windemere Road and requiring 27 residents to change their address.

It should also be noted that staff have received information that transport trucks have also gone to Windermere Avenue on the Beach Strip, but at a far less frequency.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The City of Hamilton Local Street Naming Policies, Guidelines and Procedures, as approved by Council on March 9, 2005, were used as a guide in the review of this street name change. The Guidelines and Policies do not permit two separate streets to have the same name, or a similar sounding name, and requires that a Public Notice appear in a local newspaper 20 days prior to the Public Meeting to change a street name. The proposed street name change is consistent with the Local Street Naming Policies, Guidelines and Procedures document.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

There are only three companies on Windermere Road that will have to go through a change of address, and they have been made aware of the reasons for the street name change, and of this Report. They will be able to keep their existing number.

Hamilton Emergency Services, including Police and Fire, were advised of the proposed street name change, and they support this Recommendation to approve of the proposed street name to Steel City Court.

Legal Services reviewed the By-law (see Appendix "F" to Report PED15146).

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The number of transport trucks that end up in the Fifty Road / Windemere Road area has increased in the last number of years due to a reliance on faulty GPS software and incorrect internet mapping that has misspelled Windemere Road by including the "r" in the name, making it Windermere Road and guiding the trucks in that direction.

In the past, staff have made attempts to contact various GPS manufacturers and internet mapping companies such as Google Maps or Yahoo Maps to correct a number of errors with no success. Some companies have web portals in which you can report errors, but those have also proven not to work.

In consultation with the Councillors in Wards 4 and 11, it was agreed that the best course of action is to change the street name of Windermere Road in the Hamilton industrial area to Steel City Court.

It should be noted that it will still take time for the street name change to appear on GPS software updates and online maps. Transport trucks may continue to exit at Fifty Road after the name change for a period of time.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Traffic Operations Section, Public Works Department, has recently installed signs stating that heavy trucks are not permitted, but it has proven to be ignored by the drivers.

Staff feel that keeping the status quo should not be an option due to the serious safety and property damage issues around these trucks turning around and backing up, and the roads ability to handle the pressure. In addition, the City of Hamilton could be held libel to any legal actions from the residents.

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Strategic Priority #1**

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

### **Strategic Objective**

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

### **Strategic Priority #2**

Valued & Sustainable Services

*WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.*

### **Strategic Objective**

- 2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.
- 2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

- Appendix "A" - Location Map of Windermere Road (Hamilton Industrial Area)
- Appendix "B" - Location Map of Windemere Road (Fifty Road Area)
- Appendix "C" - Location Map of Windermere Avenue (Beach Strip Area)
- Appendix "D" - Location Map of Fifty Point Area
- Appendix "E" - Photo of a truck in the subject residential area
- Appendix "F" - By-law to change Windermere Road to Steel City Court

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