



GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT 15-020

9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Deputy Mayor S. Merulla (Chair)
Councillors A. Johnson, J. Farr, M. Green, C. Collins, T. Jackson,
S. Duvall, T. Whitehead, D. Conley, M. Pearson, B. Johnson, L.
Ferguson, A. VanderBeek, R. Pasuta

**Absent
with Regrets:** Mayor Eisenberger – Bereavement
Councillor J. Partridge – Personal

THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 15-020 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Operation of Uber in the City of Hamilton (Item 6.3)

- (a) That Uber, the taxi industry and City staff meet to determine how each could work on a level playing field, while continuing to ensure public safety;
- (b) That consultation occur with the Insurance Bureau of Ontario respecting their formal response to Uber, as they perform in Ontario; and, the federal and provincial governments with respect to the operation of Uber in Ontario and nationally; and,
- (c) That staff from the Licensing Section be directed to liaise with Mr. Shafer, of Uber, in collecting this information in the next few days and share the information with members of Council and the public accordingly.

2. Uber to Cease Operations in the City of Hamilton Pending Government Regulations (Item 6.3)

That Uber be asked to cease operation in the city of Hamilton until such time as Uber vehicles are properly regulated by the Federal, Provincial and municipal Governments.

3. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Workforce Development, Report 15-001, September 22, 2015 (Item 8.1)

That Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Workforce Development, attached as Appendix "A" to Report 15-020, be approved.

4. *Municipal Act* Consultation (LS15030) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

- (a) That City staff be directed to forward the submissions outlined in Report LS15030, as amended, to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as Hamilton's response to the Province's *Municipal Act* consultation; and,
- (b) That the reference to the municipal revenue tools be stricken (new taxes) be excluded from the submission to the province, to exclude both taxation methods that Toronto has used to date with the *City of Toronto Act*.

5. Open for Business Sub-Committee Report 15-003, September 29, 2015 (Item 8.3)

(a) Continuous Improvement Team (CIT) Update (PED15154) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

That Report PED15154, respecting the Continuous Improvement Team (CIT) Update, be received.

6. Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant Application, 112 King Street West, Dundas (ERG 15-01) (PED15156) (Ward 13) (Item 8.4)

- (a) That Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant Application ERG-15-01, submitted by Allaso Holdings Inc. (Pauline Boulos), owner of the property at 112 King Street West, Dundas, for an ERASE Redevelopment Grant not to exceed \$203,000, over a maximum of ten years, be authorized and approved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the ERASE Redevelopment Agreement;

- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the ERASE Redevelopment Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to effect recommendation (a) of Report PED15156, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (c) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized to approve and execute any grant amending agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and conditions of the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant, as approved by City Council, are maintained.

7. Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant Application, 99-103 Locke Street South (ERG 15-02) (PED15144) (Ward 1) (Item 8.5)

- (a) That Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant Application ERG-15-02, submitted by Spallacci & Sons Limited (Frank Spallacci), owner of the property at 99-103 Locke Street South, Hamilton, for an ERASE Redevelopment Grant not to exceed \$1,335,600, the actual cost of the remediation, over a maximum of ten years, be authorized and approved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the ERASE Redevelopment Agreement;
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the ERASE Redevelopment Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to effect recommendation (a) of Report PED15144, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (c) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized to approve and execute any grant amending agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and conditions of the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Redevelopment Grant, as approved by City Council, are maintained.

8. Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program (HTIGP) – 193 King Street East, Hamilton (PED15153) (Ward 2) (Item 8.6)

- (a) That a Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program (HTIGP) application submitted by Urban Map Inc. (Peter De Sotto, Marvin Grimm, Alvaro Valencia), for the property at 193 King Street East, Hamilton, for a Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program (HTIGP) grant estimated at \$83,308.84 over a maximum of a five-year period, and based upon the incremental tax increase attributable to the redevelopment of 193 King

Street East, be authorized and approved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Program; and,

- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Grant Agreement, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED15153, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

9. Capital Projects Closing Report as of June 30, 2015 (FCS15066) (City Wide) (Item 8.7)

That Report FCS15066, respecting the Capital Projects Closing Report, as of June 30, 2015, be referred to the Capital Projects Work-in-Project Subcommittee, pursuant to the approved Council direction of July 10, 2015 (GIC Report 15-014, Item 10).

10. \$2.5 million in Additional Road and Sidewalk Resources (Item 9.1)

- (a) That \$2.5 million in additional road and sidewalk resources be incorporated into the 2016 Capital Budget process, to be funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve; and,
- (b) That the funds be equally distributed across all wards as part of the Minor Maintenance Program.

11. Crisis in the Housing and Homelessness System in Hamilton (Item 9.2)

That staff be directed to report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee with strategy options on how to mitigate the looming crisis in the housing and homelessness system in Hamilton.

12. Potential Litigation relating to a Breach of Contract (LS15029) (City Wide) (Item 12.2)

- (a) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to take all necessary steps in accordance with Report LS15029, respecting the Potential Litigation relating to a Breach of Contract and report back to the General Issues Committee; and,
- (b) That the contents of Report LS15029, respecting the Potential Litigation relating to a Breach of Contract, and its appendix remain confidential.

13. Lease Renewal - 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road (Lakeland Centre - Carmen's Inc.) (PED15176) (Ward 5) (Item 12.3)

- (a) That a Lease Renewal Agreement with Carmen's Inc. (the "Tenant") for 6,033 square feet of space occupied by Carmen's Inc., at 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road, Hamilton, as shown on Appendix "A" attached to Report PED15176, substantially based on the terms and conditions contained in Appendix "B" attached to Report PED15176, and such other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, be approved;
- (b) That the rents and any other revenue related to the Lease with Carmen's Inc. (the "Tenant") at 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road, Hamilton be credited to the Confederation Park budget administered by Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA);
- (c) That all transaction costs related to the Lease with Carmen's Inc. (the "Tenant") at 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road, Hamilton, including valuation, and Real Estate and Legal Services fees, be funded from the Confederation Park budget;
- (d) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents, related to the Lease Renewal Agreement with Carmen's Inc. (the "Tenant") for 6,033 square feet of space occupied by Carmen's Inc., at 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road, Hamilton, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (e) That Appendix "B" to Report PED15176, respecting the Lease Renewal - 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road (Lakeland Centre - Carmen's Inc.), remain confidential until completion of the real estate transaction.

14. Lease Renewal of Existing Space for Public Health Services (PHS), Suite 220, 100 Main Street East, Hamilton (PED15154) (Ward 2) (Item 12.4)

- (a) That a Lease Renewal Agreement with Homestead Land Holdings Limited (the "Landlord") for space occupied by Public Health Services (PHS), being Suite 220, 100 Main Street East, Hamilton, as shown on Appendix "A" attached to Report PED15154, substantially based on the terms and conditions contained in Appendix "B" attached to Report PED15154, and such other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, be approved;
- (b) That the rents and any other costs related to the lease be funded from Account No. 55358-674021(RMRCH); and that Real Estate and Legal Services fees of \$7,832 also be funded from Account No. 55358-674021(RMRCH) and credited to Account No. 45408-3560150200;

- (c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents, relating to Lease Renewal Agreement with Homestead Land Holdings Limited (the “Landlord”) for space occupied by Public Health Services (PHS), being Suite 220, 100 Main Street East, Hamilton, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (d) That Report PED15154 and Appendix “B”, respecting the Lease Renewal Agreement with Homestead Land Holdings Limited (the “Landlord”) for space occupied by Public Health Services, being Suite 220, 100 Main Street East, Hamilton remain confidential until such time as the real estate transaction is complete.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

- (i) Added as Item 4.1 – Delegation Request submitted by Antony Rizzuto, Blue Line Taxi, respecting the State of the Taxi Industry in Hamilton related to Competition Practices by UBER (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC)
- (ii) Added as Item 4.2 – Delegation Request submitted by Ron Van Kleef respecting the Contributions by the Taxi Industry to the city of Hamilton and the Importance of Providing Businesses a Level Playing Field (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC)
- (iii) Added as Item 4.3 – Delegation Request submitted by Danielle Boissoneau respecting Enbridge Inc.’s Pipelines (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC)
- (iv) Added as Item 4.4 – Delegation Request submitted by Abigail Santos, Chair for Hamilton HIVE, respecting Hamilton's Umbrella Organization for Young Professionals, Entrepreneurs, and Leaders in the City (For a future meeting of GIC)
- (v) Item 6.2 – Wayne Terryberry, Hamilton Burlington Trails Council, respecting a Proposal for a Regional Multi-Use Greenway to Compliment LRT Infrastructure and Enhance Hamilton's Active Transportation Network. Due to illness, Mr. Terryberry has requested that his presentation be moved to the November 4, 2015 General Issues Committee meeting.

- (vi) Item 8.7 – Report FCS15066, respecting the Capital Projects Closing Report, as of June 30, 2015 – staff has requested that this matter be referred to the Capital Projects Work-in-Project Sub-committee, as approved by Council on July 10, 2015 (GIC Report 15-014, Item 10).
- (vii) Added as Item 12.5 – Private and Confidential Matter respecting a Personnel Matter

Pursuant to Section 8.1, Sub-sections (b) and (e) of the City's Procedural By-law 14-300, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b) and (e) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including City employees; and, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City.

The agenda for the October 21, 2015 General Issues Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

Prior to moving forward with the agenda, Deputy Mayor Merulla recognized a visiting dignitary, the Honourable Seth Kwame Acheampong, Ghanaian Minister of Parliament for the riding of Mpraeso.

On behalf of Council, Deputy Mayor Merulla congratulated Councillor Scott Duvall on his victory in the Federal election; becoming the new Minister of Parliament for the Hamilton Mountain.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

- (i) Councillor L. Ferguson declared in interest to Item 6.3, the delegation by Chris Schafer of UBER Canada, as his family has an interest in the Taxi Industry.
- (ii) Councillor M. Pearson declared an interest to Item 10, respecting the Crisis in the Housing and Homelessness System in Hamilton, as she is a rental property owner.
- (iii) Councillor A. VanderBeek declared an interest to Item 10, respecting the Crisis in the Housing and Homelessness System in Hamilton, as she is a rental property owner.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) October 7, 2015 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting of the General Issues Committee were approved, as presented.

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(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS

- (i) Antony Rizzuto, Blue Line Taxi, respecting the State of the Taxi Industry in Hamilton related to Competition Practices by UBER (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC) (Item 4.1)**

The delegation request submitted by Antony Rizzuto, Blue Line Taxi, respecting the State of the Taxi Industry in Hamilton related to Competition Practices by UBER, was approved to attend at the November 4, 2015 General Issues Committee meeting.

- (ii) Ron Van Kleef respecting the Contributions by the Taxi Industry to the city of Hamilton and the Importance of Providing Businesses a Level Playing Field (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC) (Item 4.2)**

The delegation request submitted by Ron Van Kleef respecting the Contributions by the Taxi Industry to the city of Hamilton and the Importance of Providing Businesses a Level Playing Field Ron Van Kleef respecting the Contributions by the Taxi Industry to the city of Hamilton and the Importance of Providing Businesses a Level Playing Field, was approved to attend at the November 4, 2015 General Issues Committee meeting.

- (iii) Danielle Boissoneau respecting Enbridge Inc.'s Pipelines (Requesting to appear at the November 4, 2015 GIC) (Item 4.3)**

The delegation request submitted by Danielle Boissoneau respecting Enbridge Inc.'s Pipelines, was approved to attend at the November 4, 2015 General Issues Committee meeting.

- (iv) Abigail Santos, Chair for Hamilton HIVE, respecting Hamilton's Umbrella Organization for Young Professionals, Entrepreneurs, and Leaders in the City (For a future meeting of GIC) (Item 4.4)**

The delegation request submitted by Abigail Santos, Chair for Hamilton HIVE, respecting Hamilton's Umbrella Organization for Young Professionals, Entrepreneurs, and Leaders in the City, was approved for a future meeting of the General Issues Committee.

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Minutes, August 11, 2015 (Item 5.1)

The Minutes of the August 11, 2015 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities were received.

(f) HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Ron McKerlie, President, Mohawk College to provide a Presentation respecting Mohawk College's City School Initiative (Item 6.1)

Mr. McKerlie addressed Committee and provided a verbal presentation respecting Mohawk College's City School Initiative. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Welcoming Communities Initiative – aimed at recruiting more international students to Mohawk and encouraging them to live and work in Hamilton afterward.
- Bringing 30 thought leaders to Mohawk for a 2 day summit.
- Access Project – developing talent in our own backyard. Specifically the wealth of talent in priority neighbourhoods in the lower city and on the mountain.
- Launched City Schools earlier this month; opened the first City School at the Eva Rothwell resource centre.
- Launched the Access Project six years ago to make a college education accessible to all Hamiltonians.
- Education is Hamilton's best poverty to prosperity solution.
- College in Motion Team will continue to work with high school students from across Hamilton.
- Plan to open six City Schools over the next three years, with five in the lower city and on the mountain.
- The next two schools will be in the Gibson Landsdown and McQueston neighbourhoods.
- The City School program needs to be invited into the neighbourhood and we won't go there unless we are invited.

- We rely on the people in the neighbourhood to tell us what they need. Each will be customized to meet the specific community's needs. Some neighbourhoods the focus could be on at-risk youth, single moms or newcomers. We have also been asked to include, job search training, computer skills and career preparation workshops, training, general college courses and a mentorship program.
- Courses and workshops are tuition free and are delivered through faculty, staff and students.
- Consultation is critical to the success of City School.
- Mohawk is looking forward to working in collaboration with the City of Hamilton, the School Boards, the not-for-profit and private sectors.
- We need partners to provide a home for the City School program in each neighbourhood.
- We are not investing in bricks and mortar – we are only investing in people.
- The quality of the programs will be equal to the programs offered at our 3 Hamilton campuses.

The presentation provided by Ron McKerlie, President of Mohawk College respecting Mohawk College's City School Initiative, was received.

(ii) Wayne Terryberry, Hamilton Burlington Trails Council, respecting a Proposal for a Regional Multi-Use Greenway to Compliment LRT Infrastructure and Enhance Hamilton's Active Transportation Network (Item 6.2)

The delegation by Wayne Terryberry, Hamilton Burlington Trails Council, respecting a Proposal for a Regional Multi-Use Greenway to Compliment LRT Infrastructure and Enhance Hamilton's Active Transportation Network, was deferred to the November 4, 2015 meeting of the General Issues Committee.

(iii) Chris Schafer, UBER Canada, respecting UBER Canada (Item 6.3)

Mr. Schafer addressed Committee respecting UBER Canada. Mr. Schafer's comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- UBER is an International company and is in favour of up-to-date regulations relevant to the industry.
- Public safety is paramount to Uber.
- Uber requires and checks both federal and local criminal records checks on any new drivers.
- Mechanical inspections are required for all vehicles being used by Uber drivers.
- Each driver must have personal auto insurance in place and Uber provides an additional umbrella of up to \$5 million.
- The Uber system does not allow for street hails and removes the need for cash, which makes it safer for drivers and more convenient for passengers.
- Customers can provide real time feedback respecting their driver, enhancing safety and accountability.
- Citizens have the option of using Uber when taxis may not be available or there may be a long wait time.
- The average estimated time of arrival with Uber is under 5 minutes.
- Most of the time, Uber rides are 30-40% cheaper than most taxi services.
- Uber has introduced Uber Pool, which is a carpooling product, which contributes to a greener environment.
- Uber helps to build strong and sustainable communities.
- Uber is committed to strengthening communities, expanding transportation options, delivering economic opportunities, and allowing innovation to thrive.
- There are over 350 cities where Uber currently operates.
- 60 jurisdictions that have adopted smart, modern regulations for the ridesharing industry.
- Uber completes over \$1M trips around the world every day.
- Over 100,000 driver jobs are being generated by the Uber platform globally every month.

- In Seattle, there has been a 10% reduction in DUIs following Uber's entry into the metro area.
- Products on the Uber platform such as Uber Taxi must have and HST/GST number.
- With peer-to-peer drivers, such as Uberex, the driver has an obligation to collect and remit HST and GST to the appropriate government bodies, depending on the earnings threshold.
- Drivers are advised that they have a \$30,000 income threshold.
- The current provincial government, in their most recent budget, did have an item for the sharing economy and there was some vague talk about this matter.
- Provincial regulation would allow for uniformity across the board at the provincial level. Hamilton City Council has the opportunity to ask the Province to do the same.
- The Federal government's authority is primarily over tax matters.
- Uber is not adverse to paying a licensing fee in order to contribute to the cost of municipal road repair and maintenance.

The presentation provided by Chris Schafer, UBER Canada, respecting UBER Canada, was received.

Councillor Jackson introduced the following Motion:

(i) Operation of Uber in the City of Hamilton

Recognizing that the City of Hamilton currently regulates the taxi industry to ensure public safety and consumer protection; and,

Recognizing that Uber is currently operating in Hamilton outside of the City's business licensing regulations; and,

Whereas, Chris Schafer, representing Uber in Hamilton, has agreed to provide information respecting the current number of Uber vehicles cars in our community and information on how the ride-share company may be avoiding Municipal By-law Enforcement and answering whether or not Uber will cease operations until such time as all parties come together in an effort to create a level playing field;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Uber, the taxi industry and City staff meet to determine how each could work on a level playing field, while continuing to ensure public safety;
- (b) *That consultation occur with the Insurance Bureau of Ontario respecting their formal response to Uber, as they perform in Ontario; and, the federal and provincial governments with respect to the operation of Uber in Ontario and nationally; and,*
- (c) *That staff from the Licensing Section be directed to liaise with Mr. Shafer, of Uber, in collecting this information in the next few days and share the information with members of Council and the public accordingly.*

For disposition of the above motion, please refer to Items 1 and 2.

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) *Municipal Act Consultation (LS15030) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)*

A new sub-section (b) was added to Item 8.2, to read as follows:

- (b) That the reference to the municipal revenue tools be stricken (new taxes) be excluded from the submission to the province, to exclude both taxation methods that Toronto has used to date with the *City of Toronto Act*.

For disposition of the above motion, please refer to Item 4.

(ii) *Open for Business Sub-Committee Report 15-003, September 29, 2015 (Item 8.3)*

The General Manager of Planning and Economic Development was directed to report to the General Issues Committee on the status of position vacancies within the Planning Division.

(g) MOTIONS (Item 9.1)

(i) \$2.5 million in Additional Road and Sidewalk Resources (Item 9.1)

Staff was directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with a detailed account of past variances related to road rehabilitation and sidewalk replacement budgets.

(h) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 10)

Councillor C. Collins introduced the following Notice of Motion:

(i) \$2.5 million in Additional Road and Sidewalk Resources (Item 10.1)

- (a) That \$2.5 million in additional road and sidewalk resources be incorporated into the 2016 Capital Budget process, and to be funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve; and,
- (b) That the funds be equally distributed across all wards as part of the Minor Maintenance Program; and,
- (c) That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with a detailed account of past variances related to road rehabilitation and sidewalk replacement budgets.

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a motion respecting \$2.5 million in additional road and sidewalk resources.

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 10.

Councillor Whitehead introduced the following Notice of Motion:

(ii) Crisis in the Housing and Homelessness System in Hamilton (Item 10.2)

Whereas, there is great concern about the growing pressures in the housing and homelessness system in Hamilton; and,

Whereas, the City has been forecasting a growing shortage of affordable housing in the city with the change in the rental market, but all indications are that it is already upon us; and,

Whereas, in Hamilton, rents have risen by over 4% in one year and rental vacancy rates have dropped to an unhealthy level of 1.8 %; and,

Whereas, Hamilton's very low vacancy rate is leading to higher rents, especially for the smallest units most often occupied by the lowest-income renters and the lowest-income renters already pay an average of 69% of income-to-rent, leaving them at high risk of homelessness; and,

Whereas, almost one-third of Hamilton households rent their homes in comparison to 22% across the province and the number of units in the primary rental market has dropped, including almost 2,000 due to approval of condo conversions; and,

Whereas, it is anticipated that this trend will continue and that 2015 data will show yet another sharp increase in rents; and,

Whereas, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find affordable housing in Hamilton and this is particularly true for clients of rent subsidy programs or people who are considered hard-to-house; and,

Whereas, landlords who participated in the City's rent supplement and housing allowance programs in the past, no longer need this program to fill vacant units and no longer wish to participate in the program; and, we know that vacant units are being renovated to maximize rents, which is resulting in the further loss of affordable units; and,

Whereas, even more troubling, we hear accounts of landlords offering incentives to tenants to vacate their units to clear the way for this process; and,

Whereas, ensuring safe, quality housing is as important as affordability and many affordable housing units fail to meet zoning, building and/or fire code requirements; and,

Whereas, approximately 5,800 households are on the social housing waitlist and social housing stock needs substantial repairs, which is at an all-time high; and, the current state of the rental housing market in Hamilton will increase the pressure on the waitlist even more; and,

Whereas, 3,120 individual people stayed in emergency shelters in 2014, not including violence against women's shelters; and, although the number of people staying in shelter has decreased – the length of time that they stay has increased and shelters serving single women are reporting a 100% occupancy rate and they regularly turn away women that need their services; and,

Whereas, home ownership is becoming unattainable, as Hamilton's resale market has tended to be relatively affordable compared to other communities in the GTHA. But since 2012, the Hamilton overall resale price has increased by 22% and the increase was significantly higher in many of the priority neighbourhoods in the City's Neighbourhood Action

Strategy (e.g. the housing prices in the Stinson neighbourhood increased by 61% since 2012); and,

Whereas, occupancy rates in the men's shelter system are very high and although occupancy across the shelters hit a low in June at 83%, it was 97% in September 2015 and it currently at 101% for October, with Mission Services seeming to be consistently running in overflow; and,

Whereas, the Violence Against Women Shelters and Mary's Place are consistently full and the demand for hotel rooms has skyrocketed. In September 2015, \$65,000 was spent on hotel rooms alone and in all of 2014, the total cost for hotel rooms was \$110,000; and,

Whereas, the Family Shelter is consistently full and there is nowhere for families to go, and families are sleeping on the floor at the shelter until units come available; and,

Whereas, the youth shelter continues to have beds available, but only because they have a strong shelter diversion program; and,

Whereas the youth shelter is experiencing a major budget pressure in their youth programs (same as 2014); being \$360,000 short (\$230,000 for the Resource Centre and \$130,000 for Brennan House), their Board has decided that they cannot continue to provide the same level of service with the budget pressure and may decide to close some of their youth related programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed to report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee with strategy options on how to mitigate the looming crisis in the housing and homelessness system in Hamilton.

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a motion respecting the crisis in the housing and homelessness system in Hamilton.

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 11.

Councillor A. Johnson introduced the following Notice of Motion:

(iii) Promoting the Rich History of Hamilton's Public Rail Transit System (Item 10.3)

Whereas, history matters; and

Whereas, that which is old is new again;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to investigate the methods of promoting the rich history of Hamilton's public rail transit system (the "R" in "HSR), i.e. the Hamilton streetcars, phased out in the mid-twentieth century, and arguably "reborn" in LRT, with any funding to run such programs to be funded from the existing Tourism and Culture Budget; and,
- (b) That staff be directed to liaise; particularly with the Hamilton Public Library, on this project, the Library Archives, and the General Management of the Library, for identification of ideal places for relevant, visually interesting displays; and report back to the General Issues Committee.

(i) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL (Item 12)

(i) Closed Session Minutes – October 7, 2015 (Item 12.1)

The Closed Session Minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting of the General Issues Committee were approved as presented.

Committee moved into Closed Session, respecting Item 12.2 – Report LS15029, Potential Litigation relating to a Breach of Contract; Item 12.3 – Report PED15176, Lease Renewal - 180 Van Wagner's Beach Road (Lakeland Centre - Carmen's Inc.); Item 12.4 – Report PED15154, Lease Renewal of Existing Space for Public Health Services (PHS), Suite 220, 100 Main Street East, Hamilton; and, Item 12.5 respecting a Personnel Matter, pursuant to Section 8.1, Sub-sections (b), (c), (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 14-300, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b), (c), (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, as the subject matters pertain to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including City employees; a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for City purposes; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City; and, the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

(i) Personnel Matter (Item 12.5)

Staff was provided with direction in Closed Session.

(k) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Merulla, Deputy Mayor
Chair, General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk