



Hamilton

**Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force
Report 16-001**

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Room 264, City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor J. Farr (Chair)
R. Braithwaite, S. Braithwaite, K. Drewitt (Vice Chair), J. Maurice,
S. Mirza, S. Sutherland and C. Topp

Absent: L. Hess, C. Hill, A. Law

**THE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT
16-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

1. Incidents of Graffiti in the Downtown Core (Added Item 11.2)

- (a) That the Hamilton Police Services Board be respectfully requested to consider promptly and seriously escalating the investigation of incidents of graffiti in the Downtown Core; more specifically, incidents that have recently occurred in the International Village BIA;
- (b) That the Hamilton Police Services Board be respectfully requested to consider taking the actions required, including additional enforcement measures, to combat graffiti in the Downtown Core; and,
- (c) That the Hamilton Police Services Board be respectfully requested to consider the implementation of a Problem Oriented Policing Project to address incidents of graffiti in the International Village BIA.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

The agenda for the January 6, 2016 meeting of the Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force was approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) November 25, 2015 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the November 25, 2015 Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force meeting were approved, as presented.

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) Update from Glen Norton, Director, Urban Renewal Section and Peter Wobschall, Supervisor, Policy and Programs, Public Works Department, respecting the Budgetary Impact of Changing the Geographical Boundaries of the Task Force (Item 8.1)

Mr. Peter Wobschall, Supervisor, Policy and Programs, Public Works Department, addressed the Task Force respecting the Budgetary Impact of Changing the Geographical Boundaries of the Task Force with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been retained for the official record.

Mr. Wobschall's presentation included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Map of the Primary Service Area compared to the Expanded Service Area
- Scope of Programs in the Primary Service Area
- Scope of Programs in the Expanded Service Area
- Equipment Resources used in the Downtown Cleanliness Program
- Downtown Sidewalk Service (mechanical sidewalk sweeping and sidewalk power-washing)

- Downtown Improvements:
 - Tree Base Maintenance
 - Information Kiosks
 - Cigarette Receptacles
 - New Waste Containers
 - Alleyway Cleanliness
- Ongoing Challenges
- Current Costs of Cleanliness Services
- Estimated Costs for Expanding the Primary Service Levels

Ms. R. Braithwaite expressed concerns about the level of street cleaning services in the Barton Village BIA. Mr. Glen Norton will work with Ms. R. Braithwaite to establish increased street cleaning services as a pilot project through the Urban Renewal Section.

The update from Glen Norton, Director, Urban Renewal Section and Peter Wobschall, Supervisor, Policy and Programs, Public Works Department, respecting the Budgetary Impact of Changing the Geographical Boundaries of the Task Force, was received.

(ii) Approval of the Revised Terms of Reference (tabled at the November 25, 2015 meeting) (Item 8.2)

The Task Force used this opportunity to discuss revisions to the Terms of Reference. Various suggestions and comments were put forward.

The Approval of the Revised Terms of Reference for the Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force was tabled until the next meeting.

The Committee Clerk was directed to meet with the Chair of the Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force to incorporate the suggestions and comments that were discussed respecting the Terms of Reference and bring an Updated Terms of Reference forward at the next meeting.

(e) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

(i) Verbal Update from the Hamilton Police Service respecting Enforcement Issues in the Downtown (Item 11.1)

Sergeant Marco D’Arcangelo with the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) provided the Task Force with an update on the number and type of crimes that occurred in the Downtown Core during the month of December 2015.

Sergeant D’Arcangelo noted that the statistics for December follow the general trend but the HPS continues to work hard to reduce the number of incidents.

Sergeant D’Arcangelo reminded Task Force members that the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) team will visit properties to do an audit on what can be done to improve safety and security. This is a free assessment open to anyone who has concerns about their business or home.

The Verbal Update from Hamilton Police Service, respecting Enforcement Issues in the Downtown, was received.

(ii) Incidents of Graffiti in the Downtown Core (Added Item 11.2)

Ms. S. Braithwaite shared with the Task Force information about the increased number of graffiti incidents that have taken place in the International Village BIA. Ms. S. Braithwaite reported that new techniques, including the use of fire extinguishers, are being employed by the perpetrators. This causes paint to be sprayed very high on buildings. This results in increased removal costs as a special truck with a lift must be used to remove the graffiti.

The Task Force discussed measures they felt that the Hamilton Police Service could take to combat incidents of graffiti. The Committee Clerk advised members of the Task Force that such direction was something that was not in the mandate of the Task Force.

For disposition on this matter, refer to Item 1.

(iii) Cigarette Butt Cleanup (Added Item 11.3)

Task Force members used this time to express their concerns and experiences with cigarette butts being discarded in the Downtown Core. Ms. Kelly Barnett, Community Liaison Coordinator, Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE), answered questions from the Task Force and advised on the process the MLE uses to combat the problem.

A Working Group of the Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force was formed in order to meet with the Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Committee to discuss the issue of ways to combat Discarded Cigarette Butts.

The Working Group will consist of the following Task Force Members: Kathy Drewitt, Jessica Maurice, Cameron Topp.

The Task Force asked Ms. Barnett and representatives from Public Health Services to provide an update, at a future meeting, about the Enforcement of the By-Law respecting No-Smoking in City Parks.

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

There being no further business, the Downtown Commercial Corridor Task Force adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Farr, Chair
Downtown Commercial Corridor
Task Force

Lauri Leduc
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk