



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 23, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Hamilton Business Appreciation Awards (PED16078) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
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<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

Pursuant to the Council direction of March 21, 2012, General Issues Committee approved the City-Wide establishment and delivery of a Business Appreciation Awards Program to publicly recognize the contributions and achievement of Hamilton companies.

The success of the Business Appreciation Awards Program has resulted in the need for staff to make minor changes and revisions (see Information Section below) to ensure the delivery and longevity of the Program.

## Information:

Upon review of other municipalities, Economic Development staff recommends a number of modifications to the existing Awards Program.

The basic eligibility criteria in the Program consist of the following:

- (a) The business must reside within the municipal boundaries of the City of Hamilton and possess a municipal address;
- (b) The business must be in operation for a minimum of five years and must employ a minimum of five employees;
- (c) The business cannot be in municipal tax arrears;

- (d) The business needs to demonstrate a unique accomplishment in the following areas:
- (i) number of years in business;
  - (ii) growth and/or expansion of the business;
  - (iii) job creation; and,
  - (iv) contribution to the community.

**Recommended Actions - Changes to the Awards Program**

Since its inception, each Councillor was permitted to nominate two businesses per year in their respective Ward. Historically, it has been one large business and one small business. These companies have been identified jointly by the Ward Councillor and senior staff from the City's Economic Development Division. City staff will identify the businesses through the City's Corporate Calling Program in Hamilton and general knowledge of the community.

The review of the Business Appreciation Awards Program was required due to the fact that there are now limited numbers of large businesses that meet the established criteria. As a result, it has been difficult for Councillors and City staff to recommend both a large and small company.

Consequently, City staff is recommending that each Ward be permitted to identify two businesses that meet the established criteria as specified in this update above.

Per the revised program, the Business Appreciation Awards will be presented twice a year as follows:

- Spring Presentation:** Wards 1 – 8  
**Fall Presentation:** Wards 9 – 15 and Mayor

Each recipient of an award will receive a signed certificate from the Mayor and a framed photo of the award winner, respective Ward Councillor and the Mayor. As well, photos of the award recipients will appear in the Hamilton Spectator and the Economic Development website.

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