



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 23, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Intelligent Community Forum Smart21 Designation (PED16038) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
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<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

Not applicable

## Information:

On October 21, 2015, the Intelligent Communities Forum named Hamilton as one of 21 Smart Communities in the 2016 Intelligent Communities Awards. The Intelligent Communities Forum is a think tank and global network of cities and regions. Nominations are evaluated across six indicators such as access to broadband, innovation, and knowledge workforce. Hamilton was selected from among more than 350 municipalities around the world.

## Background

In January of 2015, the Global Hamilton Council formed as a broad-based, public-private advisory body with political, administrative, business and community representation established to provide general advice to the City of Hamilton and assist in identifying resources. (Terms of Reference for the Global Hamilton Council were received by GIC in Information Report CM14005 dated March 19, 2014.)

As a means of increasing Hamilton's international visibility and name recognition, the Global Hamilton Council proposed that the City of Hamilton should apply for "Intelligent Communities" designation to the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF). ICF is a non-profit group that examines the capability of individual cities to prosper in a Broad Band

Economy and designates some of them as “Intelligent Communities.” It was argued that attaining this designation would give Hamilton a powerful marketing edge, business attraction tool, and access to best practices followed by other model cities.

Global Hamilton led this initiative, with support from the Mayor’s Office and input from City of Hamilton staff across the organization. Based on the application, Hamilton was named a Smart21 Community in the 2016 Intelligent Communities Awards. The Smart21 Communities of 2016 include eight communities from Canada, five from Taiwan, two from the United States, two from Australia, and one community each from Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden:

Armidale, New South Wales	Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany
Brabantse Kempen Region, The Netherlands	New Taipei City, Taiwan
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada	Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
Hsinchu County, Taiwan	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Ipswich, Queensland, Australia	San Diego, California, USA
Jönköping, Sweden	Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
Kaohsiung, Taiwan	Taitung County, Taiwan
Lambton County, Ontario, Canada	Taoyuan, Taiwan
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada	Whanganui, New Zealand
Marlborough, Massachusetts, USA	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

To move beyond the semi-finalist round of competition, the Global Hamilton team answered an extensive questionnaire that was evaluated by an independent research firm. In February 2016, the seven highest-scoring cities or regions were named the Top7 Intelligent Communities of the Year. Hamilton was not among the Top7.

Many cities try multiple times before achieving the Smart21 and Top7 levels of recognition. As stated on the ICF website, “Gaining a place among the year's Smart21 is considered a badge of honor as well as the first step in greater recognition as an Intelligent Community positioned to prosper in the broadband economy.” That Hamilton achieved the Smart21 designation in its first attempt attests to the remarkable collaborative spirit and technological developments in our community. John G. Jung, Executive Director of ICF Canada, noted this remarkable achievement and has urged Hamilton to put together another application in the coming year.

The fourteenth annual Top7 list includes cities from four nations:

- Hsinchu County, Taiwan
- Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Muelheim an der Ruhr, Germany
- New Taipei City, Taiwan
- Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
- Whanganui, New Zealand
- Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

In June of 2016, at the “2015 Intelligent Community of the Year” event in Columbus, Ohio, USA, one community will be chosen to succeed Columbus as the 2016 Intelligent Community of the Year. Previous Canadian winners of Intelligent Community of the Year are Toronto (2014) and Waterloo (2007).

#### About the Process

Each nomination is evaluated based on the six Intelligent Community Indicators, which provide the conceptual framework for understanding all of the factors that determine a community's competitiveness and point to its success in the broadband economy: knowledge workforce; broadband; innovation; digital equality; sustainability and advocacy.

In addition, the Awards are guided by an annual theme. For 2016, the theme is “From Revolution to Renaissance”, which focuses on how Intelligent Communities plan their future at a time when the economy, the environment and the patterns of urban and rural life are undergoing dramatic change.

More information is available on the ICF website: <https://www.intelligentcommunity.org>

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