

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Date: November 8, 2017

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA

Provincial Downloading Engagement Strategy

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton residential taxpayer pays almost 50% of their taxes for services that are of limited City control;

WHEREAS, the total average residential tax bill in 2017 is \$3,928;

WHEREAS, about 13% or \$514 pays for provincially shared services such as paramedics, public health, social housing and social services;

WHEREAS, about 20% or \$811 pays for Boards and Agencies of limited City control such as Police Services and Conservation Authorities;

WHEREAS, about 14% or \$564 pays for Education, which is exclusively controlled by the Province;

WHEREAS, this leaves only 52% or \$2,039 of the \$3,928 tax bill contributing directly to City controlled services;

WHEREAS, many of the provincially shared services and Boards and Agency costs are increasing well beyond the rate of inflation;

WHEREAS, some of the provincially shared services are in dire service and financial circumstances including Paramedics, where recent code zero instances continue to peak; and, Social Housing, where wait lists continue to grow and capital requirements far exceed funding capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, existing Federal and Provincial funding initiatives do not adequately address the aforementioned concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City's Government Relations Sub-Committee be instructed to develop an engagement strategy that will include, but not be limited to: the planning of possible summits that involve local MPP's, provincial Ministers, local and provincial candidates, community leaders, business leaders and Hamilton taxpayer's to educate and solicit solutions to the growing issue of provincial downloading and its impact on the City of Hamilton, to be designed and implemented no later than March 30, 2018; and,
- (b) That staff be directed to report to the General Issues Committee with the findings of the Engagement Strategy, along with recommendations, by April 18, 2018.