

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Committee Date: December 7th 2017

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR D. SKELLY.....

Requiring the City of Hamilton to be more accessible to the hearing impaired

WHEREAS, According to Statistics Canada, 40% of adults aged 20 to 79 have hearing loss in one or both ears;

WHEREAS, The Ontario Building Code requires that buildings of assembly occupancy with an area of more than 100 m² and an occupant load of more than 75 shall be equipped with assistive listening systems encompassing the entire seating area;

WHEREAS, Hearing Loops provide a direct signal to hearing aids, remove unwanted background noise, and eliminate the need for alternative headset/receiver devices for citizens who are hearing impaired;

WHEREAS, other cities have mandated Hearing Loop technology, including New York City, where City Council recently passed legislation requiring that public assembly areas constructed or renovated using city dollars must install Hearing Loop technology.

WHEREAS, requiring Hearing Loops in publicly owned buildings would make Hamilton a leader in inclusivity and accessibility, and set an example for other municipalities across Canada;

WHEREAS, the installation of Hearing Loops in public buildings exemplifies the City of Hamilton's vision to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Hearing Loops be required in all newly constructed or renovated City of Hamilton public assembly areas equipped with sound systems and access to microphones.

That an inventory of existing public assembly areas within the City of Hamilton with sound systems and microphones be presented to the Emergency and Community Services Committee, and that priority locations for hearing loops installation, costs, and potential funding sources be identified (including government grants).