

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council: January 24, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Recovery of City of Hamilton Costs for Implementation of Cannabis Legalization

WHEREAS the federal government of Canada introduced on April 13, 2017 legislation to legalize and regulate cannabis;

WHEREAS the provincial government of Ontario announced on September 8, 2017 its framework for cannabis legalization;

WHEREAS local municipalities have been delegated a central role in the administration and enforcement of the federal government's efforts to fulfill its commitment to legalize and regulate cannabis across Canada;

WHEREAS Bills C-45, C-46 and Bill 174 signal that municipalities will be responsible for amending, administering and enforcing zoning by-laws and other planning instruments, along with rules around smoking restrictions, public nuisance, and safety concerns, including enforcement of illegal activity, minimum age of purchase, possession limits, public consumption, retail location rules, home cultivation and public health including public education and prevention; and

WHEREAS implementing the cannabis regime will require process or capacity changes, creating and adjusting by-laws, planning/building and community standards and licensing, fire and police/enforcement services, finance, human resources and customer service that correspond to federal and provincial regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That the Mayor request that the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario commit to fully recover municipal costs of implementing and enforcing the new framework for legalized cannabis and ensure that the City of Hamilton is adequately funded on a full cost recovery basis for the City's role in implementation and enforcement arising from the legalization of cannabis;

- b) That City staff convene an inter-divisional working group led by Finance and including Planning and Economic Development, Legal Services, Hamilton Police Services, Public Health, Hamilton Fire Services, Licensing & By-law Services to identify municipal costs relating to the legalization of cannabis and funding needed by the City for its role within the legalized system; and
- c) That the Director of Financial Planning, Administration and Policy in consultation with the inter-divisional working group report back to the General Issues Committee on the full costs to the City of the new cannabis regime and that this information be shared with the federal and provincial governments.