

**Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council**

Submitted on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 - 2:31 pm

==Committee Requested==

**Committee:** Audit, Finance & Administration

==Requestor Information==

**Name of Individual:** Bill Houston

**Name of Organization:** Sunshine Building Maintenance

**Contact Number:** C12-03-16

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**Reason(s) for delegation request:**

In the Fall of 2014 the Ontario government introduced new minimum wage legislation that tied the annual increases in minimum wage to the inflation rate. When Sunshine prepared its costing for the C12-03-16 contract we used that formula to project the costs for the term of this contract. In 2017, after the contract had been awarded the Ontario Government again made changes to Ontario labour laws, resulting in a 20% increase in the province's minimum wage, added additional vacation entitlements and introduced paid sick days. This was an unprecedented move in that no jurisdiction has ever introduced such a massive increases to it's minimum wage.

In October of this year Hamilton city council voted 11 to 5 to symbolically support the \$15 minimum wage and in September approved \$50 million dollars specifically targeted to reduce poverty in Hamilton. Both of these measure publicly demonstrated that the city was supporting efforts to help those in need. Given that this city's public position is sympathetic to the working poor and that Hamiltonian's are deserving of living wages we are somewhat perplexed that it would deny companies increase to help them offset the increases resulting from the provinces actions. By refusing companies the additional funds you putting some companies in financial peril and will force all service providers to reduce operating costs to offset the increase wages. The end result being lower service levels and lay offs, neither of which benefit the city, it's employees nor help those whose wages are below the poverty line.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with a representative of the city to find a solution to this issue that will benefit all stakeholders rather than force the burden on small business.

**Will you be requesting funds from the City? Yes**

**Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes**