

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: March 28, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Amendment to Development Charge By-law 14-153

WHEREAS, business retention and expansion of industrial companies in Hamilton is vital to assessment growth and the creation of high paying jobs;

WHEREAS, the 2016 Economic Development Action Plan identifies goals to grow non-residential tax assessment and increase the number of living-wage jobs;

WHEREAS, the amount of development charges is a major consideration for companies deciding where to expand;

WHEREAS, there have been instances in the City of Hamilton where industrial development charges have been cited as a barrier particularly in the case of existing industries wanting to expand their operations;

WHEREAS, the Development Charge By-law 14-153 currently provides a 50% industrial expansion exemption as mandated by the *Development Charge Act*, 1997, but this expansion exemption is based on the gross floor area prior to first use of the exemption and previous uses of the exemption are deducted from the available credit;

WHEREAS, other municipalities in Ontario are using a more favourable interpretation with respect to industrial expansions in their development charge by-laws to promote industrial expansions;

WHEREAS, a broader, comprehensive review of the Development Charges By-law is planned for 2019.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That as part of the 2019 Development Charges By-law review, Finance staff, with support and assistance from Economic Development staff, research best practices and report back through the Development Charges By-law Review Stakeholder Committee on options for competitive industrial Development Charges; and,

- (b) That Finance staff, with support and assistance from Economic Development staff, review the practices of other municipalities specifically with respect to the treatment of expansions to existing industrial uses, and report back to the May 7, 2018 Audit, Finance & Administration Committee on potential amendments to the Development Charges By-law that could be put in place as an interim measure, pending the 2019 comprehensive Development Charges By-law review.