

12 February 2017

Audit, Finance and Administration Committee

Good day I'm John Livingstone CEO of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Hamilton) a not - for - profit corporation with a social mandate to employ former members of the Canadian Forces and the RCMP by providing security and bylaw services to all three levels of government and the private sector.

I am a retired soldier myself having served in the Regular Force for 22 years with 2 six month tours of United Nations peacekeeping duty in the Golan Heights, six years of NATO duty in the Federal Republic of Germany and operations and exercises throughout the world including the high Arctic. I have been a member of the Commissionaires for the past 20 years and the CEO for the past 8 years.

Commissionaires has existed as a not- for- profit with the same social mandate nationally since 1925 and locally as the Hamilton Division for over 80 years since 1937. We have provided security and parking bylaw enforcement services to the City of Hamilton since the 1950s.

I'm here to convince you to come on board with the increase in minimum wage as mandated by the Government of Ontario.

The history is this, in July 2017 Commissionaires Hamilton prepared and sent letters to all clients, including Ontario Works in the City of Hamilton, who would be affected by the minimum wage increase. This letter detailed the increase required to implement the decision as forecasted by the province and showed the simple calculation necessary to arrive at a new bill rate. This letter has been provided to you in the information package delivered last week.

Throughout the summer and early fall my account managers under the direction of my Director of Operations met with the affected clients and secured agreements in principle with all of these clients including the City of Hamilton's Ontario Works representative who has since retired.

I say in principle because although the provincial government had floated this plan there was no definitive timeline and since the government was in the process of holding public meetings and consultations with all concerned parties there was ostensibly no guaranteed implementation.

When the provincial government announced the implementation timeline we again met with our clients and they signed off on the increase forecasted in our original letter.

There was one notable exception and this was the Purchasing Department of the City of Hamilton who informed us that since there was no record of an agreement with the retired member that the City would not honour the requested change.

This is not a large amount of money for an entity with a budget as large as the City of Hamilton and will make no material difference to the bottom line financial numbers of any department within the City.

CANADIAN CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES (HAMILTON)

Maj M.A. Rehill, SBSU, CD
Chair

LCOL J.L. Livingstone, CD
Chief Executive Officer

HCOL M.D. McKay, SBSU, CD, AdeC
1st Vice Chair

LCdr G. E. Swing, CD
2nd Vice Chair

We though are a not for profit which returns over 90% of our bill rates in the form of pay and benefits to our employees.

When we have an operating surplus at the end of our Fiscal Year we turn this back to our members in the form of a dispersal pro- rated on the number of hours worked within that year.

The bottom line cost for the City of Hamilton to honour the discussion between us and its retired representative and to follow the direction imposed by the provincial Government would total \$13,473.78 over the course of the year from 1 January - 31 December 2018 for the four Ontario Works locations we service.

I ask that this Committee do the right thing and direct the Purchasing Department to take this action as outlined in our letter dated July 2017.