



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Healthy and Safe Communities Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	May 7, 2018
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Improvement of the Hockey Structure in the City of Hamilton (HSC18023) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Steve Sevor (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4645
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

At its meeting of March 26, 2018, the Healthy and Safe Communities Committee approved the following:

“That the matter regarding territory between the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario, under the oligarchy of the Ontario Hockey Federation, be referred to staff to report back to the Healthy and Safe Communities Committee by the end of April if possible”.

## Information:

On March 26, 2018 a delegation representing four minor hockey associations in Hamilton presented committee with their concerns surrounding hockey development within Hamilton. Representatives from Stoney Creek Minor Hockey (SCMH), Flamborough Minor Hockey Association (FMHA), Dundas Minor Hockey Association (DMHA) and Hamilton Huskies Hockey (Huskies) requested Council support their discussions with the two governing bodies for hockey in Hamilton. The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) is the governing body for SCMH, FMHA and DMHA while the Alliance is the governing body for the Huskies. Despite the fact that members of all minor hockey associations consist of residents that reside within the ward boundaries of the City of Hamilton, there are hockey specific boundaries that restrict the participation of athletes within the ward boundaries.

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*OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.*

*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.*

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Subsequent to the committee meeting, Recreation staff convened a meeting on March 28, 2018 with all minor hockey associations and the two governing bodies to develop recommendations that would accommodate the concerns raised by the delegates.

Following hours of discussion, the collective proposal from the local hockey associations contained recommendations to develop a pilot program that would fully open up membership boundaries set by the governing bodies. This would ultimately provide any Hamilton athlete an opportunity to have freedom of choice as to which association they wish to play in.

The proposal was received and reviewed by both the OMHA and the Alliance. As the proposal would create precedence in the provincial hockey environment, a counter proposal was disseminated by the OMHA that would:

- Allow for open boundaries within the following three sets of paired associations:
  - Dundas Minor Hockey Association and Flamborough Minor Hockey Association
  - Glanbrook Minor Hockey Association and Ancaster Minor Hockey Association
  - Stoney Creek Minor Hockey and the Hamilton Huskies Hockey;
- Provide meaningful competition; and,
- Assist in addressing declining participation.

The OMHA proposal would establish a pilot program that would address the systemic issues in Hamilton and further, would not impact other minor hockey associations in the province. The Alliance has agreed in principle with the OMHA proposal for the paring of centres; however, it stipulates that any pilot involving play at the “AAA” level of hockey must be further reviewed by the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF). The OHF has subsequently created an ad-hoc committee to review eligibility and geographic boundaries as is relates to “AAA” hockey. Recommendations stemming from this ad-hoc committee are expected at the end of 2018.

While the OMHA proposal has been received by all the minor hockey associations, for some of the original delegates, the proposal does not meet their full need; however, it is a step towards moving to a system of open boundaries for all athletes that reside in the City of Hamilton.

The implementation of the OMHA proposal will be evaluated at the conclusion of each hockey season within the two year pilot period.

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**Appendices and Schedules Attached**

Not applicable