

## 5.1(c)

**To:** Mayor and Members of the General Issues Committee

**From:** Diane Dent, Chair, Friends of Auchmar

**Date:** January 13, 2019

**Subject:** Correspondence: January 16, 2019 GIC Regarding the Auchmar Estate

On behalf of the Friends of Auchmar Board of Directors, this correspondence confirms our board's support for the municipal staff recommendation that the City of Hamilton's Planning and Economic Development Department be directed to create a work plan for the adaptive reuse of the Auchmar Estate.

We concur it is time to build greater certainty into this important renewal project. This is best accomplished by placing the initiative in the hands of municipal staff working under the direction of City Council. This path aligns with direction from Hamilton City Council in 2016 which states: "That in the event no lessee or management and operations interest can be secured after a period of one year, Planning and Economic Development Department staff be directed to report to the General Issues Committee with a work plan for the adaptive reuse of the Auchmar Estate."

In part, this way forward stems from a determination by municipal staff that "The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust" — the group invited by City Council to develop a redevelopment plan — seems to be unable to advance an acceptable business case and (to our understanding) failed to secure any sizable financial pledges for the adaptive reuse of the Auchmar Estate with the city as per the agreed upon timetable.

In our opinion, "The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust" did seem to be the most appropriate lessee for the Auchmar Estate. The Trust is named in honour of the military unit formed in 1862 by the builder of Auchmar, the Honourable Isaac Buchanan. We wish to publicly acknowledge efforts made by the Trust and its supporters and hope that a role for the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust will be found.

As confirmed by a previous council vote, we fully support the decision that the entire Auchmar Estate remain in city ownership. This maintains ongoing public access and requires that the Ontario Heritage Trust be consulted on any proposed use to confirm alignment with the provisions in the Heritage Conservation Easement (General Issues Committee June 15, 2016 Report 16-016 Pg. of 44 Council – June 22, 2016 (g)).

We look forward to meet with staff to share suggestions on how we might continue to be a valuable resource to the City of Hamilton with respect to the future of the Auchmar Estate.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Gower Dent, PhD  
Chair Friends of Auchmar