



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 28, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hess Village Paid Duty Policing (PED18081(a)) (Ward 2)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 2
PREPARED BY:	Ken Leendertse (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3059
SUBMITTED BY:	Ken Leendertse Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the February 8, 2019 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, the item respecting Hess Village Paid Duty Policing, in the amount of \$50,000, was deferred pending information from staff regarding the actual costs for the Hess Village Paid Duty Policing in 2018.

INFORMATION

In 2015, a two year Hess Village Paid Duty Proportional Fund Sharing Pilot Program was established for the paid duty patio season to cover 50% of the cost of Paid Duty Policing through the Tax Stabilization Reserve. The Program ended in 2017 and the results of the pilot indicated an additional decline in attendance at Hess Village and relief for the merchants from increased operating costs as outlined in Report PED17033. The 2017 Hess Village season returned with merchants paying the full costs of Paid Duty Policing.

In September 2017, Council further amended the Business Licensing By-law 07-170 so that the Hess Village bar/nightclub operators would pay for three Special Duty Police Officers and ½ Sergeant for the Hess Village Entertainment District each Friday and Saturday from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. beginning May 24 weekend through to the end of September. It is estimated this will reduce the cost of Paid Duty Policing to approximately \$50,000 per year.

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SUBJECT: Hess Village Paid Duty Policing (PED18081(a)) (Ward 2) - Page 2 of 3

On April 25, 2018, Council approved Item 4 of Planning Committee Report 18-006 in response to Hess Village Paid Duty Policing Report (PED18081), Council resolved:

- (a) That the Hess Village Licence Holders' portion of the 2018 Paid Duty fee of approximately 50K be funded one-time from the Tax Stabilization Reserve; and,
- (b) That this portion of the Paid Duty fee be referred to the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Police Service's 2019 budget process.

In 2018, the total amount paid for the Licence Holder's portion was **\$29,971.74**

Information from Superintendent Marty Schlenberg of the Hamilton Police Service stated:

"The Hamilton Police Services (HPS) was unfortunately unable to fill all the planned Hess Village Voluntary Paid Duty (VPD) positions in 2018. This was due primarily to staffing issues that have been addressed in the 2019 HPS budget. As a result the total amount invoiced was \$29,971.74.

This does not include any administrative costs relative to the duties required by the Traffic Sergeant, the Crime Manager or the Paid Duty Coordinator. (This is a further value of approx. \$5,415.40)

The HPS believes that a robust staffing plan beyond Divisional patrol response continues to be warranted for the Hess Village operational season. Despite the challenges of the last season, the Hamilton Police Service will again be coordinating a 2019 Hess VPD operational staffing plan that will address public safety needs. Relative to these plans, the HPS will continue to require the \$50,000.00 Hess VPD commitment as recommended and approved by the COH Planning & Economic Development Department Report PED18081."

When HPS staff the Hess Village Voluntary Paid Duty, as approved in Schedule 21 of the Business Licensing By-law, the total cost would be \$124,059, with the Police's contribution to this new staffing model of \$72,253.80 per season, as outlined in Appendix "A" attached to this Report.

From information obtained from the Operational Review of Policing in Hess Village from the Hamilton Police Service, it is apparent that the funding for the Licence Holder's portion of the Paid Duty is still required.

Without this enhancement, the Licence holders would again be responsible for their share of the proportional billing. Several new establishments are now at Hess Village and the exemption of a restaurant versus a tavern/bar will need to be eliminated. If not

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approved, a new By-law will need to come to Committee prior to the Hess Village summer season.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A": Paid Duty Costing

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