

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	08-001
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Subject:	Communicating with any outside agencies, including other Levels of Government and the media
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- a) City of Hamilton Committees wishing to correspond with any outside agency including the media, Ministers of the Provincial/Federal Governments or with MP's and MPP's will follow the subjoined procedures:
1. Recommendation(s) to correspond with any outside agency submitted by a Committee are forwarded to the appropriate Standing Committee for approval with the draft correspondence being attached as an appendix to a Citizen Committee Report prepared by the respective Committee Staff Liaison.
 2. Once the recommendation is approved by the Standing Committee and Council, the correspondence is submitted for signature and will be signed jointly by the Mayor and the Chair of the Committee.
 3. Any follow up correspondence received by the City of Hamilton in response to the letter will be forwarded to both City Council and to the Committee, which initiated the recommendation and correspondence.
 4. Appointees should accurately communicate a recommendation or direction.
 5. Appointees may provide their own personal opinion on a matter, provided that it is made clear to the party they are speaking to that the comments are their own and are not being made on behalf of the Committee.
 6. Appointees may refer the media or others making inquiries to the Chair, or, in the absence of the Chair, to the Vice-Chair.