

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 18, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Development Charges By-law Policy - 2019 Development Charges Proposed Amendments to Agriculture (FCS18062(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Lindsay Gillies (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2790
SUBMITTED BY:	Cindy Mercanti Director, Customer Service and POA Acting Director, Financial Planning and Policy Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Through the June 25, 2018 meeting of the City's Audit, Finance and Administration Committee via the June 14, 2018 Development Charges Stakeholders Sub-Committee Report 18-022 staff was directed *"to consult with the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee ensuring that representatives of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture are in attendance, and obtain the Committee's input respecting the proposed policy changes for the 2019 Development Charges By-law"*.

INFORMATION

Information Report FCS18062(c) is being provided to inform all Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee members of the proposed changes to agriculture in the 2019 Development Charge (DC) By-Law and how interested parties may provide input.

Council, at its meeting of February 27, 2019, approved the following draft DC policy related to agriculture, through Report FCS18062(b):

That the Agricultural / Farm Land Development Charge remain at 100% exempt.

That the 2019 Development Charges By-law require proof of a farm business registration number to receive the Agriculture Development Charge exemption.

That the 2019 Development Charges By-law redefine the agriculture definition to exclude cannabis growing and processing, and charge the industrial Development Charge rate.

That the 2019 Development Charges By-law not provide an exemption for farm help houses.

The DC Background Study and draft By-law, including the proposed DC rates, will be posted on the City's website (<https://www.hamilton.ca/budget-finance/development-charges/2019-development-charge-background-study-and-by-law-information>) with a target date of March 18, 2019 and may be available earlier.

The City will be holding a public meeting to receive input on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 9:30 am and Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Interested parties may register to speak at the meeting or may submit written comments. While registration is preferred, all parties who attend the Public Meeting will be provided an opportunity to speak after the registered parties.

Interested persons may express their comments at the Public Meeting or in writing, addressed to:

Angela McRae, Legislative Co-ordinator
Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
City Clerk's Office
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5

or by e-mail to Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca, prior to noon (12:00 p.m.) on April 17, 2019. Written submissions will become part of the public record.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

None.

LG/dt