



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division

TO:	Chair and Members Healthy and Safe Communities Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 25, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Red Hill Family Centre Renovations (HSC18036) (Ward 5)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 5
PREPARED BY:	Jessica Chase (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3590 Debbie Bago (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2862 Dawn Meitz (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3587
SUBMITTED BY:	Grace Mater Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Red Hill Family Centre complete renovations to increase the current operating capacity by 15 toddlers in the amount of \$841,834 from the Child Care Expansion Funding (100% provincial funding); and,
- (b) That an increase in staff complement of 3.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Teachers, to meet the provincial licensing requirements for the additional 15 toddler spaces, in the amount of \$247,290, funded 100% through additional revenues (parental contributions and/or fee subsidies), be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Red Hill Family Centre is the City of Hamilton's directly operated child care centre. It currently operates 79 child care spaces.

In alignment with the provincial Child Care Expansion Plan, the City has identified an opportunity to renovate the Red Hill Family Centre to increase the operating capacity by an additional 15 toddler spaces. Once renovations are completed the centre will operate 94 spaces. The renovations will increase access to child care spaces in Hamilton and will improve the current sustainability of the Red Hill Family Centre by reducing vacancy rates that are typically experienced each fall as children transition to school.

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The total projected cost of the renovations is \$841,834, which will be funded by the City of Hamilton's Child Care Expansion allocation. This is 100% provincial funding with no cost sharing requirements.

As a result of the increased operating capacity, an additional 3.0 FTE Teacher positions are required to meet the Ministry of Education licensing standards. The cost of these positions will be offset by the increased revenue that the additional spaces will generate.

Detailed design development is currently underway. Once completed, a tender will be issued in accordance with the City's procurement policies. Renovations are tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2018, with plans to open the renovated toddler classroom in December 2018. The Red Hill Family Centre will remain open during renovations and a plan has been put in place to maintain service to existing children and families during that time.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

There are no net levy financial implications associated with Report HSC18036. The total cost of the renovation to the Red Hill Family Centre has been projected to be \$841,834. The renovation will be fully funded by the City of Hamilton's Child Care Expansion funding allocation. These are 100% Provincial funds with no cost sharing requirements for the City.

The renovation costs include an expansion of the empty room to meet licensing requirements for toddler rooms, including the addition of a washroom. The projected costs also include the purchase of age-appropriate toys, shelving and equipment.

Staffing:

As a result of the increase to the operating capacity, 3.0 additional Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Teacher positions are required to meet the Ministry of Education licensing standards. All Teacher positions are required to be Registered Early Childhood Educators. The cost of these additional positions will be offset by the increased revenue (i.e. parental contributions and/or fee subsidies) as a result of the increased operating capacity. The additional Teacher positions will be filled in December 2018 to align with the opening of the additional toddler spaces.

Legal:

There are no legal implications associated with Report HSC18036.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In September 2016, the provincial government announced a Child Care Expansion Plan. This plan will create access to licensed child care for 100,000 more children aged 0-4 years old over the next five years across the province. To support this commitment, the provincial government is making a provincial investment of \$170 million in the current fiscal year, growing to \$200 million in 2018/19.

In the summer of 2017, the Ministry of Education announced that the City of Hamilton would receive additional 100% provincial funding of \$5,439,321 for a major expansion of child care and \$3,399,023 as part of the shared commitment by the Ontario and Federal governments to provide investments in early learning and child care to increase quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity. In 2018, this allocation increased by an additional \$2,124,875.

The purpose of the Child Care Expansion funding is to support new child care fee subsidies, expand access to affordable licensed child care spaces and reduce fee subsidy waitlists to help parents access quality child care for children aged 0 to 4 years. The City of Hamilton is required to meet ministry-set expansion targets to align with this new funding investment, including serving an additional 1,768 children.

In late 2017, the City of Hamilton identified the opportunity and began planning to renovate Red Hill Family Centre to increase their current operating capacity.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The renovated space for toddlers is required to be licensed by the Ministry of Education in accordance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The investment at the Red Hill Family Centre aligns with the Early Years Community Plan, 2016-2020 and is reflective of extensive ongoing consultation with the Child Care and Early Years sector.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Red Hill Family Centre currently operates 79 spaces (15 toddler and 64 preschool spaces). Once renovations are completed, the centre will operate 94 spaces (30 toddler and 64 preschool spaces).

The purpose of the renovations is to increase the operating capacity of the Red Hill Family Centre. This will increase access to child care spaces in Hamilton and is consistent with the Ministry of Education's Child Care Expansion Plan. It will also

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improve the current sustainability of the Red Hill Family Centre by reducing vacancy rates. Typically, the Red Hill Family Centre experiences vacancy rates of approximately 10-12% each fall as preschool aged children graduate from the centre and transition to Full Day Kindergarten at schools. By increasing the number of available toddler spaces, the centre is hoping to significantly reduce these vacancy rates and therefore improve the financial sustainability of the centre. This is because there will be a larger pool of younger children moving up to the older age groups, as other children graduate and transition to school.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None