

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil marriage services

From: James Knott

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:58 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil marriage services

Yes this is a great idea. Please do it!

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Comments RE: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at Hamilton City Hall

From: Adam Nelson Bernards

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:35 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Comments RE: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at Hamilton City Hall

Hello Ms. Pilon,

I wanted to reach out and share my comments with you on the prospect of the City of Hamilton offering Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall.

My partner and I are currently in the process of planning a wedding, and we were disappointed to learn that this is a service not currently available in Hamilton.

We feel that for a city this size, this is a service that should absolutely be available to citizens.

We would both like to offer our unwavering support for this initiative.

Best,

Adam

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Support for Hamilton offering a civil marriage option

From: Dennis Austin

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:15 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Support for Hamilton offering a civil marriage option

Good Morning,

My name is Dennis Austin and I live [REDACTED] in Hamilton.

I am emailing to support a change in policy that will allow Hamilton's clerk (or a delegated staffer) to legally "solemnize marriages" at city hall.

My wife and I were rather discouraged a few years ago to find we couldn't get our marriage simply ratified at city hall before the city would issue a marriage license. It is my opinion that a wedding officiant is merely a government-mandated witness to (what should be) an already loving union and is wholly unnecessary. It only takes 2 people to make a marriage and I guess someone has to file paperwork which the city does when it processes the license, the officiant is just a glorified middleman.

I also encourage the city to take it a step further and , if legally possible, on top of offering a \$339 ceremony or \$56 for a quickie renewal of vows, also offer a ceremony-less process of marriage for a price closer to the fee for renewals. Again, it only takes 2 people to make a marriage. No one needs a ceremony, or rings, or an officiant, or an over-priced dress, etc. It's perfectly fine if people want any of that but these do not a marriage make. My wife and I were perfectly secure in our loving union before marriage and the main reason we went through a formal marriage was to ease to process of her changing her legal last-name so it would match our children's. We view marriage as primarily a legal union as nothing in our relationship really changed from the day before our wedding to the day after. We did however throw a party, so the biggest change by far was our bank account.

As an aside, our solution to being unable to get married at city hall was my brother-in-law took a cheap course over a weekend and became an officiant for roughly the same price we were being quoted to have it done by a "professional" officiant.

Thank you,
-Dennis Austin

Pilon, Janet

Subject: city hall weddings

From: Nicole Moning

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:15 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: city hall weddings

I read the article in the Spec this morning and I would be on board with the idea of city hall weddings! I think having the option would be great for people who are not looking to go wedding poor.

Thanks and I look forward to the official vote

Nicole

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Town Hall Marriages Vote?

From: Ang Woodcox
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Town Hall Marriages Vote?

Hello,

I believe that it would be very useful to citizens if Town Hall were to begin allowing marriages to be conducted there. Ideally, the fee would be kept in a range that is affordable to as many people as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Angela Woodcox

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil marriage ceremonies at City Hall

From: Paul Smith

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:46 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil marriage ceremonies at City Hall

Hi Janet

I believe that civil marriage ceremonies should be offered at City Hall. I moved to Hamilton 15 months ago and assumed they already were!

Aside from the additional income for the city, it would be nice for couples to have the opportunity to get married in the building I would consider the heart of the city.

Thanks,
Paul Smith
Durand

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Dedicated Wedding Space

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Brock

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:23 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Dedicated Wedding Space

I think it would be an ideal opportunity to benefit both the city financially as well as those in the general public who prefer a civil ceremony, for the city to have a small attractive dedicated space, which would hold up to twenty or so to comply with the fire code, and where confetti and other material which were approved by the fire and safety codes could be allowed. Any rental fee would include an amount to offset the cleanup expense.

Ideally it would be in a spot with some natural light and a place where photography was encouraged.

As a Hamilton taxpayer for the last thirty-five years, and after a twenty-five year career in condo mgmt., I think this type of facility, which is normally associated with happy occasions, is a pleasant change for many of my vintage, for whom funerals are a main social component of their day to day lives!!

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Let people get married at City Hall!

From: Ian Borsuk

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:33 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Let people get married at City Hall!

Hello,

I would like to enthusiastically endorse the idea for Hamilton to marry people at City Hall. I'm personally non-religious and I believe it's important for Hamiltonians to have access to the ability to get married in a non-religious setting - and City Hall is a perfect location for it. Last year I had the privilege to be best man for my friend who got married to his now-wife at Toronto's City Hall and the entire process and ceremony was fantastic.

I understand it may take some time for this idea to pick up, but for Hamilton to have it's own wedding chamber at City Hall (much like what Toronto has) would be amazing. I also see no problem with this idea being focused on revenue generation as well - my friend for example loved that they were paying the City of Toronto (where they live).

- Ian

--

-Ian Borsuk

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Marriage

From: Brittany Bittcher
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Civil Marriage

To whom it may concern,

I heard over the radio the call for comments regarding Civil marriages offered for Hamilton.

I live up on the Hamilton mountain and late last year, I became engaged. I was so excited and began planning to have a simple yet beautiful civil ceremony down at City Hall in Hamilton.

Unfortunately, I was surprised and disappointed to hear Hamilton didnt have any officiators at the location as it would have been so convenient and wonderful to have held it downtown.

I am having to look elsewhere to st.catherines and even oakville for their city halls to perform our ceremony.

So, in conclusion, if Hamilton would start performing Civil Marriages again, I would be very happy and honoured to register our family at Hamiltons City Hall.

I look forward to seeing if any changes will arise from these comments.

Thank you for your time,

B.Bittcher

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Weddings at City Hall

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Newport

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:53 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Weddings at City Hall

Hello,

Yes, absolutely! Why not offer weddings at city hall for those who are interested?

Sara Newport

Pilon, Janet

Subject: City Hall Weddings

-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Lanigan

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 5:21 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: City Hall Weddings

Hello Janet,

I was very excited when I saw an article about the opening of this again and would like to put my name or number down as a YES to this service.

Thank you
Rebecca Lanigan

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage ceremonies at City Hall?

From: Kate O'Brien

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:33 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Marriage ceremonies at City Hall?

Good Evening / Morning Janet,

The answer is yes.

City Hall is above all else "the people's place". And Council Chambers is ideally suited. It is about time that city hall had some positive interaction with citizens, instead of being a place for protests and confrontation.

personally i have witnessed wonderful weddings at city halls around the world, even in Italy, a country with churches at every street corner.

In this city, with interfaith, non faith, multicultural, and LGBTQ2 partnerships seeking formal venues for such a celebration that do not cost an arm and a leg, this is something that would render a service. Of course that is as long as the city does not try to figure out how to turn this into some money grab initiative. City Hall should not be in the business of making a profit. Cost recovery, yes. Profit, no.

Ignore the objections from businesses (including some religious institutions) who are in the business of making money. Couples who want a church/ temple etc or high priced restaurant wedding will always have one.

And in this process make sure that the ceremony allows for the wedding party to have a "toast" of champagne... if it costs extra to have a licence for serving a glass of champagne, so what. Set some easy rules, and make city hall a happy space for Hamiltonians.

Long overdue.

hope my comments are helpful.

Kathleen O'Brien
Hamiltonian.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage at City Hall

From: Mike Lupo
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 12:17 AM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Marriage at City Hall

Hello Miss Pilon,

I am writing in response to an article published on the CBC website, and I followed a link in that article to the Hamilton.ca website.

I think it's a fantastic idea to offer the solemnization of marriage at Hamilton's City Hall. I am a Wedding Officiant myself, and wish to be part of this. In addition to being a Wedding Officiant, I am also a DJ.

How can I be a part of this? Is there any room for an experienced person like myself? I do have interest in performing civil marriages and be an asset to the City of Hamilton and its great citizens.

I am available to speak by phone or meet in person, if an opportunity arises. Additionally, if I am invited to any meetings on this topic, my attendance would be guaranteed.

Thank you for your time.

Mike

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage Servives

From: Kaitlyn Jardine

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 7:23 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Marriage Servives

Hi there,

I was very surprised to read in the Spec today that Hamilton does not offer marriage services at city hall. My partner and I have marriage on the horizon and planned to have a ceremony with just the two of us. We love Hamilton and wouldn't want to go anywhere else. I hope we'll be able to have a quick service here one day soon.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: civil marriages

From: Noreen Bristow

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 10:17 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: civil marriages

Definitely **YES** to marriages: obtain the license, book the date (with non-refundable prepayment) then arrive at prescribed date and time, done.

Place a limit on the number of witnesses, it is an intimate civic ceremony not a open invitation to all and sundry.

No to: Confetti, rice, alcohol, bubbles, flowers, incense, religious connotation. There is a cost incurred for set up as well as cleaning and in the case of alcohol, a liability factor.

Just my opinion. Thanks for asking. Noreen

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Ceremonies

-----Original Message-----

From: Ute Winer

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 11:25 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil Ceremonies

Good Morning Janet,

I read the article in the Spectator this morning.

I would love to see civil ceremonies

conducted at City Hall.

Hope this goes through.

Regards,

Ute Winer

Pilon, Janet

Subject: feedback on marriages at city hall

From: Brandon Nelson

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 11:30 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: feedback on marriages at city hall

Seems to me like a pretty fundamental public service that *ought* to be provided, considering how much marriage has become a civil status issue (e.g. tax situations, inheritances), rather than a religious one.

I got married this fall and had to travel to Guelph to do so. Cost there was under \$260, with the licence purchased in Toronto. The staff person who officiated provided the nicest ceremony of *any* wedding I've ever been to. It was everything we wanted.

Do you know what the province provides you when you inquire where to find someone to marry you... a text file of 23,000 officiants registered with the province, and their religious affiliation.

That religion is all mixed up with getting married is a relic of the past – there must be a civil option.

Quite a few strange opinions reflected in today's Spec article on the subject, particularly from vested interests (i.e. officiants).

Brandon Nelson

Hamilton, ON

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Feedback for Weddings @ City Hall

From: Scott, Allie <Allie.Scott@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 2:33 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Feedback for Weddings @ City Hall

Hi Janet,

I had a resident call in regarding the article in the Spec today regarding wedding ceremonies. She doesn't have email so I am writing this on her behalf.

She agrees with getting married at City Hall and suggests that the money it will generate go towards the homeless and women's shelters. Thinks that it is a great idea! That we should keep the money in Hamilton and not give it to other municipalities.

Resident Info:

Susan Munzer

Thank you,

Allie Scott

Customer Contact Centre Representative/ AH Dispatcher

Corporate Services

Customer Service and POA, City of Hamilton

(905) 546-2424 Ext. 8842



Hamilton

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Weddings at City hall

From: Lori Skinner

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 3:00 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Weddings at City hall

Of course we should allow weddings at City Hall.

L. Skinner
Hamilton On

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Wedding Ceremonies at City Hall

From: Jennifer Roth
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Wedding Ceremonies at City Hall

Hi there:

I am fully in support of weddings at City Hall! I have no idea why it doesn't happen already.

I agree that this should be an affordable option for the public. I also agree that there should be no additional decorations or confetti/rice permitted. Slimmed down ceremonies for sure.

Thank you for the opportunity to show my support,
Jennifer

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Weddings at city hall

-----Original Message-----

From: Cortney Pasternak

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 4:58 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Re: Weddings at city hall

Hello,

I am writing as a Humanist Officiant (who solemnizes non-religious marriages all over the West GTHA. I agree with the officiant quoted in the article with respect to competition and saturated officiant market which makes it increasingly tough to do business, and the idea that 'quickie' weddings should somehow be treated as less sacred or special or important. Thus I don't believe clerks should be allowed to conduct these services when there are plenty of officiants who pay for training, licensing, travel costs, advertising, etc and are well trained in offering beautiful if still simple ceremonies. However, having conducted many weddings at municipal offices in Toronto, I do believe there is a public service element here that must be considered. A compromise I believe would be for city hall to offer rooms to rent (as they do in Toronto) with lists of officiants - should they choose to sign up to be on the list (some municipal offices do have lists but there are some arbitrary and restrictive rules that should not be in place. I think a compromise is to offer the space and a list of names with photos and possibly websites to ensure that Officiants can sign up to perform weddings at city hall (and charge their fee as opposed to letting city hall determine the fee -- but be paid to rent a room or chapel) which lets couples have choices from experienced officiants who have devoted resources and time to this and have training in the legal aspects (City hall could even have an online list with each officiant's website so couples can choose).

I hope this is helpful and would be happy to speak further.

Cortney Pasternak, MEd, MA

Registered Psychotherapist

Humanist Officiant

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage at City Hall

From: Erin Fast

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 6:10 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Marriage at City Hall

Hello Jenet,

I would like to provide my feedback regarding marriage at Hamilton City Hall. I think this is a great idea.

I wish it was already available so I could have been married there on Feb 10th, 2020.

Thank you

Erin

(w)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil marriage city hall

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth Greenspan

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 7:44 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Civil marriage city hall

>

> My name is Ruth Greenspan. I am an officiant with All Seasons. I am opposed to city clerks performing marriages at city hall .

> Please do not take this work away from private people like myself.

> Ruth

>

(x)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage at city hall

From: Christie deRuiter

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 8:49 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Marriage at city hall

Great idea! Wish it had been an option for us. Way overdue that civil weddings are not easier. This would solve that.
Thanks!

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

From: Isabel Szczygiel

Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 12:46 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

Hello Janet,

I recently read the article in TheSpec. It would be really meaningful have a civil ceremony in the same community you reside and work in. My partner and I would choose a civil ceremony at city hall- should this option be available.

I know many couples our age who wish they had the option of having their civil ceremony at Hamilton City Hall- unfortunately have had to have this ceremony at other city halls such as Brantford and Cambridge.

Thank you,
Isabel Szczygiel

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at Hamilton City Hall

From: Felicia Radassao

Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 3:02 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at Hamilton City Hall

Hey Janet,

I read that the city may be considering offering civil marriage ceremonies at City Hall. I'm sending you this e-mail to let you know, as a Hamiltonian, that I think this is a great idea and support Hamilton offering civil marriages. It's what my partner and I want to do with only 7 other people. A nice small, simple ceremony.

On the topic of decor, that should be up to those who want to get married at City Hall at their time (to set up and take down) and expense. Thus the City wouldn't have to pay for things like that.

I hope it will be offered one day.

Have a great weekend,

Felicia Radassao

(aa)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Weddings at city hall

From: Sarah Rashid

Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 6:05 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Weddings at city hall

Hi Janet,

I do not support city clerks conducting civil weddings in Hamilton.

I do not want this because I am concerned with the business it will take away from officiants.

Thank you.

Sarah

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Married at city hall

-----Original Message-----

From: Anita

Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 8:13 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Married at city hall

Hello,

I just wanted to offer up my opinion on this matter. I recently had my second marriage in October. Leading up to it, we were looking for simple, inexpensive ways of doing it (after having lived together for 23 years). We were disappointed to find we had to go as far as Oakville or St. Catharines in order to have a simple civil marriage. Both of us are avid motorcyclists and I ended up finding a drive-through wedding kiosk just off one of our regular routes on the Niagara Parkway.

I really do not agree with some councillors' opinions that the city would be taking customers away from local businesses. I absolutely was unable to find anything that was as cheap and simple as what we were looking for.

Additionally, many who look to this alternative of getting married at city hall are not looking for flowers, music, and any other add-ons that come with other types of wedding ceremonies.

Many will be second marriages (experienced and don't need counselling as was also brought up in the paper).

Some will be those looking to save money and are willing to give up the special added touches to do so.

I don't think in this day and age we have barely-of-age kids dashing off to elope as was more prevalent in previous decades, so the counselling aspect is not really required. Frankly, with my first wedding, we found the "counselling" aspect of it rather insulting and annoying, yet it was required. We had lived together for seven years before marrying, lasted 20, but then things happen. No amount of "counselling" is going to be able to address everything and save a marriage that has reached its end.

I do hope this is a service the city can provide in the future. If it weren't for finding the perfect solution for us with the motorcycle drive-through, getting married at city hall in our own city would have been the best solution.

Thanks,
Anita Thomas

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: city hall marriages for Hamilton

From: Lorrie MacFarlane-Rodgers

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2020 12:44 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Re: city hall marriages for Hamilton

Hello,

I just read the article in the Hamilton Spectator. I am a huge supporter of our city hall performing marriages. My spouse and I can't afford the money for an elaborate wedding or to travel to other cities to marry. I am very simple in my desires. I want a simple city hall marriage. The celebration means nothing compared to knowing my partner and I are officially married instead of common law. I hope this is the kind of feedback you were looking for ma'am.

Sincerely Lorrie MacFarlane
A devoted hamiltonian

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marriage at Hamilton City Hall

-----Original Message-----

From: James Bona

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2020 1:34 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Marriage at Hamilton City Hall

Hello Ms. Pilon,

I'm writing in regards to the upcoming decision to allow marriage officiation at Hamilton City Hall. This is something the city should definitely take steps toward providing to the great people of our city. It is an ideal way for many citizens to take an exceptionally important step in their lives as a couple.

I'm reading opposition to this, I see many selfish views from the industry stakeholders, which do not take into consideration the benefits to Hamiltonians. Not only would this potentially save people from higher costs, it would also provide a level of convenience to allow for people to take that step with lowered stress. Also, the additional income to city coffers is an added benefit.

I sincerely provide my opinion in favour of this initiative.

Thank you,

James Bona

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Weddings

From: Kenneth Jackson
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Weddings

Janet,

I am opposed to the offering of wedding services at City Hall. The municipal government must **not** compete with business already well established in Hamilton. Would City Hall sell snow shovels? Or dog leashes for those who buy licences for their dogs? Or bicycle locks? If the answer to any of these suggestions is "no" then the response to my opposition should be agreement.

I am not convinced that the officiants would be more than perfunctory.

It matters not to me that other municipalities offer wedding services. That is not a convincing argument. As my old Dad used to say, "If someone else sticks their head into the fire, should you do the same?"

Kenneth Jackson

[REDACTED]
Dundas, ON
[REDACTED]

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

From: J Lee

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 10:22 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

Dear City Clerk Pilon,

I am emailing to express my support for civil marriage ceremonies at City Hall.

It makes sense to allow residents to have this option. The cost is very reasonable.

I am already married but if this was an option, I would have chosen it as it is logical and convenient.

Please add my name to the list of "Yes to Civil Marriages Ceremonies at City Hall"

Thank you for your time,
Juby Lee

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Comments on Marriage Regulations proposal

From: Max Lightstone

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:48 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Comments on Marriage Regulations proposal

Good afternoon Janet,

I would like to make the following comments on the proposed Civil Marriage service being offered by the City of Hamilton.

For the most part, I agree with it. It would be a good service for Hamiltonians.

I disagree with the allowance that a 16 or 17 year old can get married. It *might* be needed for religious reasons (although I doubt that, being a religious person myself), but I can think of absolutely no reason why a non-religious marriage should be possible for those under the age of adulthood, especially since a city clerk would have no background knowledge of any iffy situations.

I also disagree with a portion of the ceremony: "legal matrimony according to the custom and law prevailing by the Government of the Province of Ontario" is stilted and not very emotional. Removing the word "Government" would make it much better.

Most sincerely,
Maxwell Lightstone

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Governance Committee

From: Kenneth Jackson
Sent: January 21, 2020 1:17 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Governance Committee

Committee Members,

I have recently learned of the suggestion that the City Clerk be granted the status of wedding officiant.

I am opposed to this move because it would place the city in competition with businesses already established in Hamilton. I know of two such. One is Heritage Weddings and Coordinators established some years ago by the Rev, Ted Simmons who served as a probation officer in the city. He experienced many of his clients lamenting to him that the wedding services then offered at City Hall were cold, short and perfunctory. So he established a wedding chapel in Hess Village.

Tim Simmons, Ted's son, inherited the business upon his father's death. Unfortunately the chapel burned. Tim found another venue on Main Street East.

Heritage Weddings is Tim's livelihood. That livelihood should not be threatened for the sake of extra money for the clerk.

Yours truly,
Kenneth Jackson

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yes, Civil Marriages should be available at City Hall

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeanne Mayo

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:12 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Yes, Civil Marriages should be available at City Hall

Jeanne Mayo

Durand neighbourhood

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

From: Emily Andrews

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:35 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil Marriage Ceremonies at City Hall

Hi Janet,

I fully support this initiative. I just assumed was already offered. Having been married in a civil ceremony in St. Thomas, Ont. many years ago, I can confidently say that this is a service that many people could benefit from. The fee proposed seems reasonable and a good revenue source for the city. I also agree that there is no real need to offer the service outside of regular business hours. I hope this goes ahead!

Emily Andrews

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil ceremonies at City Hall in Hamilton Ontario

From: Patricia Serafini

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 4:29 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil ceremonies at City Hall in Hamilton Ontario

I think this is a great idea. I am very surprised that they are not being offered already. In fact, I am very curious as to why Hamilton City Hall does not offer this service.

Sincerely,
Pat Serafini

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil Ceremonies at City Hall

From: Kim Zarzuela
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Civil Ceremonies at City Hall

Hello Ms. Pilon,

I wanted to weigh in on the consideration to hold civil ceremonies at City Hall.

I think this would provide a low cost, easy to plan option for people who are not looking to have a large event when they get married.

Many people want to celebrate their wedding overseas but struggle to have their unions recognized due to the judicial system at their destination wedding location. The capacity to marry locally, particularly in Hamilton, would give them the option to complete the formalities here and enjoy the festivities wherever they choose.

Further, it would be a great source of income generated by the city, and a great service for the residents of Hamilton.

Thank you for reading my comments on the matter.

Regards,

Kim Zarzuela

Pilon, Janet

Subject: City Hall marriage ceremonies feedback

From: Annastacia Dickerson

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:28 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: City Hall marriage ceremonies feedback

I saw this posted in my Facebook news feed today:

<https://www.inthehammer.com/want-to-get-married-at-hamilton-city-hall-well-you-cantyet>

It says to email feedback.

The quick answer is a resounding **YES**. I think it a great service to the city to provide this secular/non-denominational service. The fee seems fair too.

Thank you for considering it.

Best,

A.

(nn)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil marriage

From: Mary Anne McDougall

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 11:39 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil marriage

Good Morning Janet,

I am writing in favour of City Hall conducting civil marriage ceremonies for those citizens interested. On July 19, 2017 i had to travel out of town to get married at the Cayuga Courthouse. My future husband had recently been diagnosed with cancer so we wanted a small quiet affair. We were very surprised to find that we were unable to have our vows said locally. Please consider bringing this option to our city.

Sincerely, Mary Anne McDougall

(oo)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: City Hall Marriages

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennie Mackay

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:42 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: City Hall Marriages

A great idea.

Sent from my iPhone

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yes, City Hall Should Offer Marriages

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Avetissian

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:08 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Yes, City Hall Should Offer Marriages

Long overdue.

Sent from my iPhone

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Wedding Ceremonies

-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa DeCiantis

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 11:39 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Wedding Ceremonies

Hi there,

I saw online to send feedback about the civil ceremonies in Hamilton to this address.

I am very in favour of this being available. My fiancé and I are getting married this summer and would really like to do the paperwork the day/week before at city hall. Unfortunately because this isn't available - that money will be going to another municipality where it is. I have found among my friends (most aged 25-35), a lot of people are opting for no "big" wedding (just paperwork), are not affiliated with a church that can provide the service, or are doing the paperwork early to avoid that segment of the wedding day (less complications and more cost effective).

Since moving here a year ago, it seems the demographic in my area is changing to younger couples that a service like this may be very important to.

I hope you are able to make this change - and if you do before July 18th of this year, my fiancé and I will see you at city hall!

Cheers,
Melissa

(rr)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yes to Civil Marriages

From: Deborah Wiggins

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 6:36 PM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Yes to Civil Marriages

I'm definitely in favour of the City of Hamilton providing civil marriage services. Glad you are moving ahead with this. I think it would be even better if you didn't restrict times to just office hours. However, it's a good start.

Deborah Wiggins
Hamilton

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Civil ceremonies

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy Allan

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 7:45 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Civil ceremonies

It's about time! I'm amazed that Hamiltonians have not had this opportunity.
Sent from my iPhone

Pilon, Janet

Subject: City Hall Weddings

-----Original Message-----

From: isaac rashid

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:16 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: City Hall Weddings

Attn: Janet Pilon

I'm for NO weddings at city hall.

Please leave it to the private sector.

That's where it belongs.

Thanks.

Isaac Rashid

Sent from my iPhone