



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Transportation Planning and Parking Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 18, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Dedicated Mohawk College Enforcement (PED18220(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Mary Collins (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2674 James Buffet (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3177
SUBMITTED BY:	Brian Hollingworth Director, Transportation Planning and Parking Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the 12-month extension of the temporary Parking Enforcement Officer at an estimated gross annual cost of \$85,300 offset by fine revenues generated for a net annual cost of \$0, be approved;
- (b) That the temporary Parking Enforcement Officer supplement City-wide Parking enforcement, in addition to the enforcement efforts in the Mohawk College Precinct, be approved;
- (c) That staff report back with results and recommendations following the 12-months at the end of Q1 2021;
- (d) That the item respecting staff report back with results and recommendations following the one-year pilot program respecting the temporary Dedicated Mohawk College Parking Enforcement Officer be identified as complete and removed from the Planning Committee Outstanding Business List.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Short-term parking demands in the Mohawk College Precinct has generated a significant number of requests for enforcement in the area. Proactive enforcement via a Council approved pilot project starting January 2019, achieving positive results with a reduction in community complaints and additional issuance of parking fines above historical area averages. Fine revenues offset the cost of the temporary FTE and staff observed an approximate increase of 1,600 parking fines issued in the Mohawk College area with a value of approximately \$37 K. While these increases are above historical averages, they do not cover the complete cost of the additional dedicated officer.

Parking enforcement demand across the entire City of Hamilton is experiencing rapid growth, with the total number of complaints increasing annually. In 2019, City-wide requests for enforcement rose 14% over the previous year.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: \$85,300 gross cost to Transportation Planning and Parking, but at a Net Cost of \$0.

Staffing: A 12-month extension for the use of a temporary FTE Parking Control Officer until end of Q1 2021.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Short-term parking pressures have plagued residential streets around Mohawk College since parking fees were implemented on the College campus many years ago. The College has advertised paid parking on-site at a rate of \$5 per hour, with a \$16 daily maximum. In addition, annual permits are made available at a cost of \$940. To avoid the cost of parking on campus, visitors and students seek short-term, no-cost on-street parking options.

Ongoing parking demands have generated a significant number of requests for parking enforcement in the area, and staff regularly respond to calls for service as part of the west mountain 'beat' for the daily Parking Control Officers (PCO) assignments.

On a typical day during the school year, there are approximately five to six PCOs patrolling proactively and responding to complaints regarding parking enforcement throughout the City of Hamilton, with a single PCO dedicated to the west mountain, which includes the Mohawk College Precinct.

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At the Council Meeting of May 23, 2018, Council passed a Motion from the Ward Councillor “that staff look at the feasibility of a dedicated PCO in the Mohawk College Precinct”.

At the Planning Committee Meeting on September 18, 2018, staff submitted Recommendation Report PED18220 outlining the feasibility of the pilot program. Staff indicated that a dedicated PCO in the Mohawk College area could provide a heightened level of enforcement and at a ‘net zero’ cost.

At the Council meeting of September 26, 2018, Council approved a one-year pilot program using one temporary FTE Parking Enforcement Officer for the Mohawk College Precinct at an estimated gross annual cost of \$84 K and net cost of \$0; and that staff report back with results and recommendations following the one-year pilot program.

The pilot program was amended by Council at its meeting of June 26, 2019, where it approved Item 7.1, which read as follows: “That the one (1) Temporary FTE Parking Enforcement Officer assigned to the one (1) year pilot program for Mohawk College Precinct, be reassigned over the summer months, to other areas to cover vacation/sick time.”

As anticipated, the total number of tickets issued for the pilot project exceeded the historical area average. Revenues from parking fines offset the cost of the temporary FTE and staff observed an approximate increase of 1,600 fines issued in the Mohawk Collect Precinct (with an approximate value of \$37 K).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Staff had regular interaction and communication over the course of the Pilot Program and leading up to this report with the Ward 8 Councillor.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Prior to the Pilot Program, the average annual number of parking fines issued between 2015 and 2018 was 2,897 with an average revenue of \$79,036. Over the 12-month period of the Pilot Program, the number of parking fines increased by 35% and revenues increased by 32%. While these increases are above historical averages, they do not cover the complete cost of the additional dedicated officer which was approximately \$84 K for the same period.

The following results provide a five-year comparison:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PPN Issued	2,635	2,994	3,140	2,821	4,478
Issued Revenue	\$71,040	\$80,989	\$86,328	\$77,790	\$116,609

Proactive enforcement of the area has led to less reported public complaints regarding parking violations with staff receiving 477 complaints in 2019 versus 540 complaints in 2018.

Based on a review of historical trends, the average ticket value issuance per officer across the City is approximately \$184 K per year. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the dedicated officer for the Mohawk precinct had a ticket issuance much below the average, which is understandable given the focused area of work. Increasing the flexibility for this officer to be deployed to other areas of the City, in addition to focusing on the Mohawk precinct, would improve the cost recovery for the extra officer, and have a higher probability to be revenue neutral or revenue positive.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

- (a) Staff could be directed to approve one new permanent FTE Parking Control Officer, to enforce the regulations in the Mohawk College Precinct, and that the increased complement of one FTE be referred to in the finalization of the 2020 budget process or move to the 2021 budget process for consideration; and,
- (b) Staff could be directed to immediately end the Pilot Program and revert to regular routine enforcement and calls for service.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

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

N/A

MC:JB:cr