

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence to City Council for its April 15, 2020 meeting (PED20087)

From: Cameron Kroetsch

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 1:55 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Mayor Eisenberger and City Council:

I'm writing with respect to report PED20087 included on the City Council Agenda (20-007) for the April 15, 2020 meeting of City Council. First, thanks to staff for their work on this report and for their recommendations, especially in light of the other priorities that are no doubt weighing on them during this pandemic.

I'm writing to recommend that City Council defer item 6.4.b until such time as the Province of Ontario lifts its emergency orders. I am asking for this deferral because it's my view that this is not an urgent matter that must be addressed during the COVID-19 pandemic and that it is important for the public to have an opportunity to address the School Board Properties Sub-Committee and/or the General Issues Committee on this matter when it is safe to do so.

I say this in light of the issuance, on March 20, 2020, of Ontario Regulation 73/20 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200073>) that appears to exempt the City of Hamilton from timelines associated with the 90-day response period required under Ontario Regulation 444/98 and would therefore allow it to postpone a decision on this matter.

In short, I'm suggesting that the City's response to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is not an urgent matter that cannot wait until the Province has lifted its emergency orders.

Further, it is also my view that this matter would be best decided through a public process that could better take place when emergency orders have been lifted. The process, as prescribed outside of a pandemic situation, would allow at least 2 opportunities for the public to delegate on this matter. The first would be to the School Board Properties Sub-Committee and the second would be to the General Issues Committee.

As of the writing of this email, I am not aware of any public review of this matter through either of those committees, though I am happy to be corrected if I'm in error.

In any event, I think it is important to provide the public with opportunities to address these matters when it is possible to do so. It remains my view that Provincial regulation 73/20 gives you that opportunity.

Thank you for receiving and reviewing my correspondence and recommendation and for your continued work during this pandemic.

Best,

