




CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Economic Development Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Committee of the Whole
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 13, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery (PED20102) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery (Task Force) attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED20102 be approved.
- (b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to invite individuals that meet the criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference to sit as members of the Task Force.
- (c) That the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery report back to the General Issues Committee to provide a final report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Hamilton, along with cities across the country, are facing an unprecedented time in our collective history. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the course for cities across the globe. This global health crisis has become a social and economic crisis that is being felt by city residents, workers and local industry. The immediate effects on local economies, as a result of some companies ceasing operations and some commercial activity being halted, will be felt for many years to come.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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.

The proposed Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery is to provide multi-sectoral leadership and direction to guide Hamilton's economic recovery in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will formulate an aggressive, action driven plan to position the City of Hamilton now, for long-term sustainable and equitable economic recovery. Led by the Mayor and guided by representatives of local business and economic sectors, the Task Force will be supported by senior staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department.

The recommended Terms of Reference for Hamilton's Mayor's Task Force for Economic Recovery is attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED20102.

The City of Hamilton, in partnership with the Flamborough, Hamilton, and Stoney Creek Chambers of Commerce, Hamilton's 13 Business Improvement Areas and Workforce Planning Hamilton, conducted a digital business impact survey to assess the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on Hamilton businesses. A copy of the business impact survey is attached as Appendix "B" to Report PED20102. A summary of the survey results is attached as Appendix "C" to Report PED20102.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with this report. No paid external consultants or services are required.

Staffing: No additional staffing is required.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton has previously created Task Forces to address specific issues such as the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Workforce Development.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The work of the Task Force will inform the updating of existing City planning documents including, but not limited to, the Economic Development Action Plan and Tourism Strategy.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

- City Manager
- General Manager, Planning and Economic Development Department

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given the changing economic business climate, many cities are forming economic recovery working groups and task forces. A review of the current examples includes a common purpose to jumpstart their local economies and working collaboratively with a variety of key sector partners.

A preliminary review of municipal actions to date highlights the following trends:

- Recognition of short, medium and long-term strategies for the current fragile economy and evolving business climate;
- Focus on industry sectors that are most vulnerable (e.g. Main Street) and/or have the strongest potential for expanded investment;
- Discussion of workforce development and potential areas of action;
- Activating short-term financial aid priorities.

Despite these shared trends, municipally led COVID-19 actions are in uncharted territory and there is no common structure, membership or methodology for such groups.

The Terms of Reference from the former City of Hamilton's Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Workforce Development was used as a resource for the establishment of the recommended Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION – Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

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.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PED20102 - Terms of Reference Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery

Appendix "B" to Report PED20102 - City of Hamilton - COVID-19 Business Impact Survey #1 - April 15, 2020

Appendix "C" to Report PED20102 - COVID-19 Hamilton Business Impact Survey Report, April 15-24, 2020