



# Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery - Update

July 30, 2020

# Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery

U Quick Wins - June 25

Key Issue	Description and/or Question	Response	Next Step
Childcare	As a barrier to returning to work in all sectors.	Grace Mater and city staff are working with childcare providers in the city. In addition, Public Health is working with private operators to ensure safety procedures are shared and adhered to.	Grace Mater (Director, Director Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Healthy and Safe Communities Department) will present a childcare overview at the July 30th Task Force Meeting.
	Are there city programs or other organizations that could provide childcare services (e.g drop-in programs)?		
	Is there the potential for collaboration where large spaces/resources could be shared?		
	Is there a website for parents to access resources for childcare?		
	Advocacy at provincial and federal levels		
		Refer to the working groups.	
Municipal Programs: Outdoor Dining	Purchasing patio furniture for eligible businesses through the Façade Improvement Grants Program.	To be reviewed by city staff who manage the Outdoor Dining Districts program.	This financial incentive program cannot be used for a business's operational costs but must be related to creating more permanent physical improvements to a property. This is a result of provincial legislation under the Planning Act which governs the eligible costs under which a municipality is permitted to provide grants/loans. The program terms of the façade programs are governed under the Downtown and Community Renewal Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and explicitly prohibits the funding for exterior and interior furniture.
	Various establishments including music venues could not participate in the Outdoor Dining Districts program due to zoning requirements (i.e. abutting residential neighbourhoods).		<b><i>On July 7, 2020 City Council passed a secondary motion which approved temporary zoning permissions for commercial properties (e.g. music venues) who initially did not qualify for the program because they abutted residential properties. In addition, the outdoor York Parkade rooftop was approved as an outdoor performance space.</i></b>

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Federal Funding	Many federal relief fund programs end in August 2020.	Suggestion to advocate over the course of the summer for an extension.	Referred to the working groups.
Municipal Finance	Removing Licensing Fees & Lowering Development Charges	To be reviewed by City Finance Department.	
	Creation of Repayment Plans for the Tax Assistance Program.		
	Municipality require urgent funding from senior levels of government.	Motion for the Task Force to write to senior levels of government requesting municipal funding for the City of Hamilton.	<b><i>Task Force Letter was forwarded on July 9th, 2020 to the provincial and federal government.</i></b>
City Transit	Maintaining HSR route frequency	HSR continues to review and adjust service.	
Communications & Resources	Ensuring programs such as Digital Main Streets are shared with greater community.	Staff will continue to share key programs through Invest In Hamilton social channels, Hamilton Business Centre, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Microsite.	
	Need for COVID-19 Re-opening guidelines for all sectors	The Province of Ontario has a detailed list of guidelines. This information will be shared as links on the task force resource list.	
	Is there a list of PPE suppliers available?	There is a list at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Microsite.	

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Development	There should be focus on shovel-ready construction projects within the city of Hamilton.		Referred to the Building, Infrastructure and Transportation working group.
Small Businesses	For businesses that were going to open right before COVID-19, is the City helping or facilitating the process of reopening?		Yes
Workforce	Advocacy on the recognition of credentials of international health care workers.		Refer to the working groups.
	Advocacy on farm temporary workers/impact on regulations.		
	Advocacy on retraining of newcomers as immigration may becoming limited.		
Infrastructure	Need of internet for all citizens to provide wider access to the greater community.		Consult with City of Hamilton's Chief Digital Officer and refer to working groups.