

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: July 17, 2020

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. JOHNSON.....**

### **Waiving of the Marriage Licence Fee**

WHEREAS, By-law No. 19-160 A By-Law To Establish Certain 2019 User Fees and Charges For Services, Activities or the Use of Property, requires that fees and charges contained in the By-Law be applied to the issuance of Marriage Licences;

WHEREAS, By-law No. 19-160 A By-Law To Establish Certain 2019 User Fees and Charges For Services, Activities or the Use of Property does not give staff the authority to waive the fees and charges;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Government has recently introduced *Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* and plans to amend the *Act* to provide that if the three-month validity period includes a period in which there is an emergency declared throughout Ontario, the licence remains valid throughout the period of emergency and until 24 months after the emergency ends;

WHEREAS, if the proposed amendments to the *Marriage Act* receive Royal Assent, Ontario will waive the provincial fee for licences if a couple requires a new licence because critical information on the licence purchased during that timeframe is no longer accurate, or the original unused licence has been lost or destroyed;

WHEREAS, Royal Assent of *Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* is expected in August of 2020;

WHEREAS, Couples with an existing expired marriage licence who plan to marry prior to *Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* receiving Royal Assent will need to purchase a new marriage licence; and

WHEREAS, the Province will not waive the provincial fee for the replacement of expired licences prior to *Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* receiving Royal Assent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Council delegate the authority to the City Clerk to waive the Marriage Licence fee as outlined in By-Law No. 19-160 A By-Law To Establish Certain 2019 User Fees and Charges For Services for the replacement of expired licences purchased in the City of Hamilton for couples who plan to marry prior to *Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* receiving Royal Assent.