



Hamilton

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY
REPORT 20-003**

Thursday, July 30, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Council Chamber

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: T. Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders' Association (Vice-Chair)
Councillors N. Nann; J.P. Danko
M. Afinec, President & COO of Business Operations, Hamilton Tiger-Cats & Forge FC
F. Bernstein, Executive Director, Workers Art & Heritage Centre
R. Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village
K. Duffin, President and CEO, Amity Goodwill
M. Ellerker, Business Manager, Hamilton-Brantford Building & Construction Trades Council (Building/Skilled Trades Sector)
P. Hall, Executive Director, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce
K. Jarvi, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA
L. La Rocca, Director of Operations, Sonic Unyon Records
K. Loomis, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
B. Lubbers, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott
A. Marco, President, Hamilton & District Labour Council
R. McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks
B. Munroe, Blacktop Recess
M. Patricelli, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce
C. Puckering, President and CEO, Hamilton International Airport
T. Shattuck, Chair, Synapse Life Science Consortium, McMaster Innovation Park
D. Spoelstra, Chair of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
J. Travis, Executive Director Workforce Planning Hamilton
H. Wegiel, Director of Government and Trade Relations ArcelorMittal Dofasco
G. Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office

Absent with

Regrets: Mayor F. Eisenberger, Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal
R. McKerlie, President of Mohawk College (Chair)
E. Dunham, Owner, The Other Bird
K. Martin, Executive Director, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY PRESENTS REPORT 20-003 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Role in the Economic Recovery (Added Item 8.2)

That the Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Role in the Economic Recovery, attached hereto as Appendix "A" to Report 20-003, be approved and sent to the Prime Minister, Premier of Ontario, Federal Minister of Finance and the Provincial Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)

The Clerk advised the Task Force of the following changes to the agenda:

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Update

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1 Restart and Recovery COVID-19 Impact in Hamilton - Workforce Planning Hamilton Survey
- 8.2 Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Role in the Economic Recovery
- 8.3 Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Liability's Role in the Economic Recovery

The agenda for the July 30, 2020 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(i) June 25, 2020 (Item 4.1)

The Minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, were approved, as presented.

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

(i) Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Post COVID-19 Economic Blueprint (Item 5.1)

ThenHamilton Chamber of Commerce Post COVID-19 Economic Blueprint, was received and posted to the Resources Page for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Child Care Re-opening (Item 6.1)

Grace Mater, Director, Healthy and Safe Communities, addressed the Task Force respecting the current state of Child Care Re-opening during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The information respecting Child Care Re-Opening, was received.

(ii) Working Group Updates (Item 6.2)

Members of the Working Groups of the Task Force provided updates on their work up the present day.

The Working Group Updates, were received.

(f) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Update (Added Item 7.1)

Norm Schleeahn, Director of Economic Development, addressed the Task Force respecting the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Update.

The presentation respecting Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Update, was received.

(g) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) Restart and Recovery: COVID-19 Impact in Hamilton - Workforce Planning Hamilton Survey (Added Item 8.1)

Judy Travis, Workforce Planning Hamilton, addressed the Task Force with an overview of Restart and Recovery: COVID-19 Impact in Hamilton Survey.

The Restart and Recovery: COVID-19 Impact in Hamilton - Workforce Planning Hamilton Survey, was received.

The Restart and Recovery: COVID-19 Impact in Hamilton - Workforce Planning Hamilton Survey will be circulated by the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Working Groups to their industry contacts.

(ii) Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Liability's Role in the Economic Recovery (Added Item 8.3)

The Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Respecting Liability's Role in the Economic Recovery will be referred to K. Loomis and his staff for revision and presented at the next meeting.

(h) MOTION (Item 9)

(i) Implementation of Panel Discussions and/or Workshops for the Working Groups of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery (Item 9.1)

Staff were directed to implement panel discussions and/or workshops delivered by subject matter experts (including those with lived experience) to the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery around the three guiding principles of the Task Force being EDI, Climate Action, and Labour, for the Working Groups of the Task Force.

(i) GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

The following information items were received:

(i) Canada United Weekend (Added Item 11.1)

P. Hall advised that Royal Bank of Canada and their industry partners are running a fund-raising campaign called Canada United and Canada United Weekend with a small-business spending event to take place from August 28-30, 2020.

(ii) Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Project Update (Added Item 11.2)

K. Loomis advised that the following Hamilton Chamber of Commerce assistance programs are now in place:

- Recovery Activation Program
- Trace Accelerator Program
- Digital Main Street Project

(iii) Anthony Marco (Added Item 11.3)

A. Marco advised that a document from the Canadian Labour Congress, entitled Labour's Vision for Economic Recovery has been uploaded on to the resource page for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

(j) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

There being no further business, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Johns, Vice-Chair
Mayor's Task Force on Economic
Recovery

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

**Proposed Correspondence from the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery
Respecting Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance
Role in the Economic Recovery**

Hamilton's Economic Recovery Task Force comprises multi-sectoral leadership across our community's diverse economy. The Task Force is responsible for guiding Hamilton's economic recovery in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic by formulating an aggressive, action-driven plan to ensure a long-term, sustainable and equitable economic recovery.

We are writing to you to express our concerns and recommendations to improve the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program.

We have reviewed the ability of local business owners **and organizations** to sustain operations and pay rent during this economic downturn. Although CECRA is meant to assist business owners **and organizations** by providing subsidized commercial rent, businesses **and organizations** have reported a number of obstacles preventing their participation.

1. The eligibility requirement of 75% revenue loss is too high for businesses, despite their immediate need for rent assistance.
2. Commercial tenants are uncomfortable with the need to share their highly sensitive financial information with landlords in order to access the subsidy.
3. Some landlords are not taking advantage of the program, despite tenants meeting the eligibility requirements, due in part to the complexity of the agreements and the efforts required for each tenant.

To ensure this program meets the goal of preventing business closures, we recommend implementing the following guidelines to meet the needs of landlords and tenants:

1. Lower the eligibility requirement **to a sliding scale**
2. Allow tenants to apply for access to limit the onus on landlords and to prevent the disclosure of tenants' private business information.
3. Extend program funding to at least the end of 2020.

With these adjustments in place, the existing CECRA initiative will better pave the way to economic recovery in Hamilton and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chair of the Mayor's Task Force
on Economic Recovery