

REPORT OF THE

Mayor's Task Force on

ECONOMIC

RECOVERY

Mission & Mandate

The Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery provided multi-sectoral leadership and direction to guide Hamilton's economic recovery with a mandate to:

- Develop an action driven plan to position the City of Hamilton now, for long-term, sustainable and equitable economic recovery.
- Establish defined outcomes with specific deliverables to address the priority economic impacts.
- Identify issues and opportunities to convey to other levels of government.
- Provide advice and assistance in the implementation of the Task Force's plan for economic recovery.
- Provide advice and suggestions to the Mayor, Council and senior staff for specific City of Hamilton actions and responses.

7 Working Groups

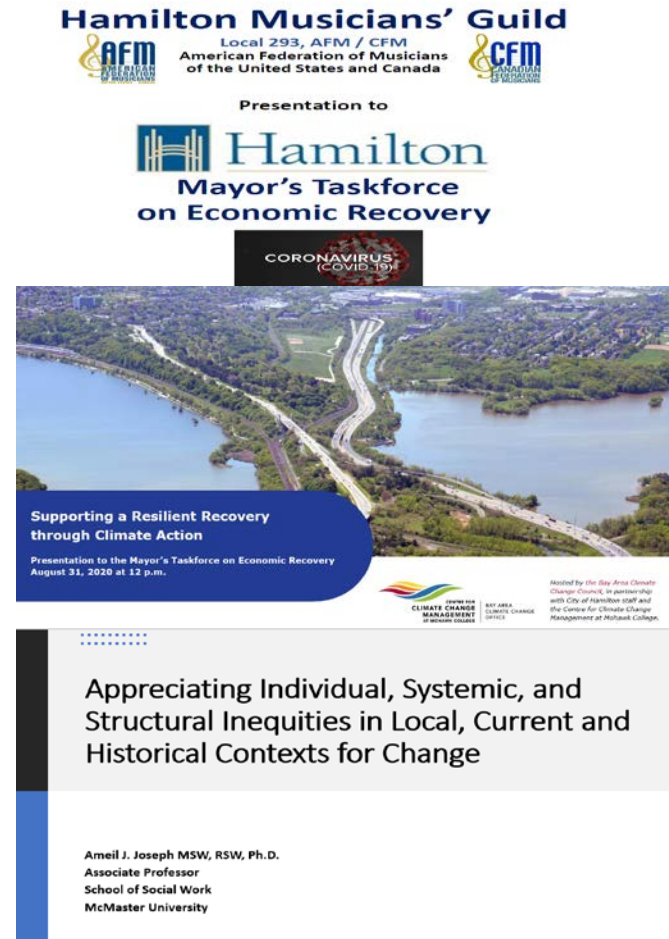
Seven Working Groups were identified and selected to represent the broad range of industry sectors impacted by COVID-19 and included:

- 1. SMALL BUSINESS, RESTAURANTS, MAIN STREET AREAS
& NON-PROFIT**
- 2. MANUFACTURING & LIFE SCIENCES**
- 3 AGRICULTURE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY**
- 4. ARTS & CULTURE**
- 5. TOURISM & HOSPITALITY**
- 6. WORKPLACE & OFFICE**
- 7. TRANSPORTATION, BUILDING & INFRASTRUCTURE**

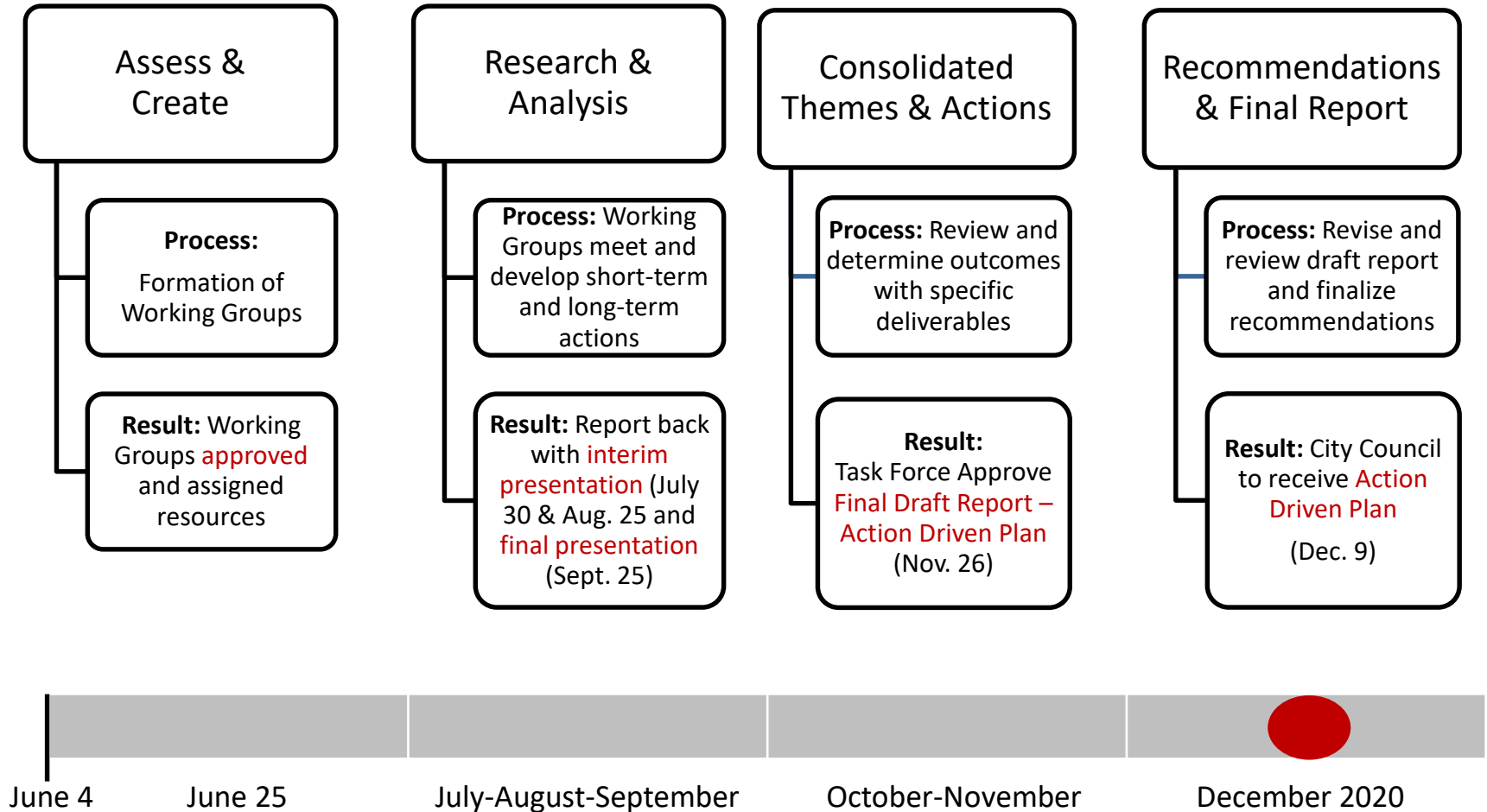
Three Guiding Principles

Moving Forward – A Multi-Sectoral Lens

The Task Force was encouraged to consider the following three guiding principles – *Equity Diversity and Inclusion, Climate Action and Labour* – in their deliberations.



Process



Common Themes

- Advocacy for Hamilton Businesses and Workers
- Financial relief for local businesses
- Property Tax relief for local businesses
- Supporting “Shop Local”
- Expanding connectivity across the city
- Transportation and Childcare critical areas in pandemic planning

Areas of Consensus

- Centralized communications contact point for businesses
- Training and funding for workers and job-seekers
- Advance and build the digital capacity of local businesses
- Well-being supports for employees and training for employers
- Champion placemaking projects
- Advance major infrastructure projects or shovel-ready projects

Next Steps

Task Force will meet in early 2021 to discuss City Council's direction and response to the report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

Thank you

Task Force Members:

Project Sponsor

Janette Smith, City Manager

Mayor
City Councillors

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
John-Paul Danko, Ward 8, Nringer Nann, Ward 3
Terry Whitehead, Ward 14

Chair
Vice-Chair

Ron McKerlie, President, Mohawk College
Terri Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders Association

Resource to the Working Groups:

Judy Travis, Executive Director, Workforce Planning Hamilton
Anthony Marco, President, Hamilton District Labour Council
Ron McKerlie, President, Mohawk College

Small Business, Restaurants, Main Street Areas & Non-Profits

Chair

Patti Hall, Executive Director, The Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce
Kerry Jarvi, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA
Erin Dunham, Owner, The Other Bird
Kelly Duffin, President and CEO, Amity Goodwill

Manufacturing & Life Sciences

Chair

Gay Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office (MILO), McMaster University
Ty Shattuck, Chair, Synapse Life Science Consortium
Henry Wegiel, AMD's Director of Government and Trade Relations

Thank you

Agriculture & Circular Economy

Co-Chairs

Drew Spoelstra, Chair of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
Matteo Patricelli, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

Arts & Culture

Chair

Florencia Berinstein, Executive Director, Workers Art & Heritage Centre
Lisa La Rocca, Director of Operations, Sonic Unyon Records
Bob Munroe

Tourism & Hospitality

Chair

Brian Lubbers, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott
Rondalyn Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village
Matt Afinec, President & COO of Business Operations, Hamilton Tiger-Cats & Forge FC

Workplace & Office

Chair

Rob McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks
Kim Martin, Executive Director, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
Keanin Loomis, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Transportation, Building & Infrastructure

Chair

Mark Ellerker, Business Manager, Hamilton-Brantford Building and Construction Trades Council
Terri Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders' Association
Cathie Puckering, President and CEO, Hamilton International Airport

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. PEARSON.....

COVID-19 Support for Local Businesses

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by providing easy access for local businesses to information and resources related to financial support programs and public health best practices;

WHEREAS, the City's three Chambers of Commerce have undertaken significant efforts to support their members through COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the City has been partnering with the Chambers of Commerce to ensure that local businesses have the resources they need to navigate the new COVID-19 rules and regulations, including collaborating to develop and launch the COVID-19 Business Continuity and Economic Recovery website as well as the COVID Business Impact Survey;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the City's Economic Development Division collaborate with the Hamilton, Flamborough and Stoney Creek Chambers of Commerce to **establish a COVID-Concierge service through the Hamilton Business Centre**, including the creation of information materials, phone line, and on-line one-stop resource centre for COVID-19 related information for local businesses, to be funded to an upset limit of \$150,000 from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900).

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER.....

Financial Relief for Local Businesses

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery through temporary financial relief for businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the City currently regulates 44 categories of businesses through its Business Licensing Program, comprising a total of 8,320 businesses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That all General Business License Fees, Trade License Fees, Taxi and Personal Transportation Providers (PTP) Fees, and Film Permit Fees be frozen at 2020 levels for 2021, with the loss in budgeted revenues in 2021 of an estimated \$275,000 to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900).

CITY OF HAMILTON
MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. FARR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. COLLINS.....

Stimulating Local Development - Affordable Housing Projects - Cash-in-lieu
Parking Policy – Downtown Secondary Plan Area -Temporary Period

WHEREAS the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a
number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by stimulating
local development, and particularly construction of new affordable housing;

Parking Requirements

WHEREAS, the City previously used a temporary reduction in parking requirements to
stimulate downtown development, through a Temporary Use By-law for the period
November 1, 1996 to September 1, 1999;

WHEREAS, Section 40(1) and 40(2) of the Planning Act allows municipalities to enter
into an agreement with an owner or occupant of a building that effectively allows for the
payment of cash-in-lieu of any parking requirement and the City of Hamilton has such a
policy in place in its Official Plan that authorizes the City to consider a cash-in-lieu
payment for all or part of the parking required under the applicable in-force Zoning By-
law requirements;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Official Plan directs that cash-in-lieu of parking
payments are to be used for the acquisition of lands and/or the provision of off-street
parking as deemed appropriate by the City;

WHEREAS, the former City of Hamilton has operational guidelines in place on how
cash-in-lieu of parking payments are to be calculated which currently state that
“payments made by proponents will not be less than 50% of the total cost of the parking
not provided” and set out a formula for calculating the cost of parking based on both
land and construction costs;

WHEREAS, the most recent use of the cash-in-lieu of parking policy was in 2017 for 8
parking spaces for a project in downtown Hamilton and which resulted in the payment of
\$140,400 (approximately \$17,550 per parking space);

WHEREAS, a temporary amendment to the cash-in-lieu of parking policy to reduce the cash-in-lieu rate could be used to reduce the overall cost of development;

Building Permit Fees for Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, since 2018 the City of Hamilton has waived various application fees for planning approvals (e.g. zoning, minor variances, site plan applications) for affordable housing projects, which has resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in savings for new affordable housing projects, but has not waived Building Permit fees which, for recent affordable housing projects, have cost affordable housing developers thousands of dollars per project, such as the Parkdale Landing (\$46k), North End Landing (\$118k); Ken Soble Tower (\$129k); and, Good Shephard (\$56k);

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton currently maintains a Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve, which is forecast to have a balance of approximately \$22 million as of December 2020, but the use of these funds is regulated provincially under the *Ontario Building Code Act*, which limits their use to the administration of the Building Code Act;

WHEREAS, if the Province were to allow it, the City could use a small portion of its Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing;

Surety Bonds

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery specifically recommends that the City of Hamilton permit surety bonds as a means of securing various financial obligations to the City on the part of developers;

WHEREAS, surety bonds can potentially reduce the cost of development by providing developers with a lower-cost option for financial securities, compared to current City practice which largely require Letters of Credit; and,

WHEREAS, there are potential risks to the City with respect to surety bonds, for example, related to the ease of accessing to the funds should the City have to draw upon them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That Planning staff be directed to report back to Planning Committee with options for modifying the City's existing cash-in-lieu of parking policy to provide for a temporary, reduced cash-in-lieu of parking fee within the Downtown Secondary Plan Area for a temporary period;
- (b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the local MPPs to request that the

Province amend the *Ontario Building Code Act* to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects;

- (c) That, if the amendments are made to the *Ontario Building Code Act* to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects, staff be directed to report back to the Planning Committee on a recommended program for waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects, to be funded by the Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve (Reserve Number 104050); and,
- (d) That Finance and Legal staff be directed to report back to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee on the potential for the use of surety bonds as financial security for development projects to secure municipal agreements.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR A. VANDERBEEK.....

Supporting “Shop Local”

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by encouraging people to shop local, explore local, visit local business areas, and support local businesses;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to supporting local businesses as one component of its broader economic recovery planning;

WHEREAS, there are currently 13 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the BIAs are established through the coordination and request of the local business community, legislated through the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, and are governed through a Board of Management, which is a Local Board;

WHEREAS, the BIAs are primarily funded through a levy placed on each commercial property owner;

WHEREAS, the City currently supports the 13 BIAs with funding enhancements by providing an annual Contribution to Operating Grant Program (\$89,100 per year total), a share of parking revenues (10% of Hamilton Municipal Parking System operating surplus to a maximum of \$167,280 per year), and an annual grant for holiday programming (\$1,000 per BIA); and,

WHEREAS, the City’s annual Winterfest festival, which has a 2021 budget of approximately \$65,000 to curate outdoor activities primarily in parks across the City, presents an opportunity for an immediate impact by extending its scope to include outdoor activities in the City’s BIA areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That each of the City's existing thirteen Business Improvement Areas be provided a one-time enhancement grant of \$10,000 each to support special programming in 2021 to help to support local businesses, subject to the submission and approval of a plan and budget to the City's Economic Development Division, to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900);
- (b) That the budget for the February 2021 Hamilton Winterfest be increased by \$25,000, to add additional programming in each of the City's 13 Business Improvement Areas, to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900); and,
- (c) That the Commercial Districts and Small Business Section of the Economic Development Division and Tourism Hamilton be directed to include an enhanced focus on supporting local tourism and support for local businesses in their 2021 programming, using their existing budgets.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN

Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to property tax relief for small businesses and businesses in the arts and culture sector;

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced that it would be enabling municipalities to provide property tax relief for small businesses by giving municipalities the ability to create a new "Small Business" Tax Sub-Class in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018 the City of Toronto was successful in having the Province create a special Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-Class, which the City of Toronto has used to provide a reduction in property tax for eligible creative enterprises and live music venues, but this authority does not yet exist in the City of Hamilton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with options for the creation of a Small Business Tax Sub-class;
- (b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, with a copy to the local MPPs to request that the Province extend the eligibility for the Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class to the City of Hamilton;
- (c) That, should the Province support extending the Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class to the City of Hamilton, Finance staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with options for creating such a sub-class.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Federal and Provincial Assistance with COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiatives

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has resulted in widespread economic hardship across multiple sectors in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery has recognized that a successful economic recovery will require involvement and collaboration from all levels of government;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery has identified specific recommendations that are beyond the authority of a municipality and require action from upper levels of government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff directed to prepare correspondence from the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario, copying all local MPs and MPPs, in support of the following:
 - (i) establishing trade policies that support the manufacturing and auto sectors;
 - (ii) continuing transfers to municipalities to cover municipal budget shortfalls due to COVID impacts;
 - (iii) instituting Universal Paid Emergency Leave;
 - (iv) extending the Commercial Rent Assistance Program beyond 2020;
 - (v) extending the Extension of Termination and Severance Protection beyond Jan 2, 2021;
 - (vi) extending the CERB/CEWS wage subsidy programs and committing to study the potential for a Universal Basic Income program;

- (vii) establishing a national universal childcare program;
 - (viii) allowing for the extension of Corporate Tax deferral programs;
 - (ix) providing funding for non-governmental organizations that provide well-being supports, such as services for people with mental health and addictions)
 - (x) establishing a centralized contact point for businesses for information on pandemic-related provincial restrictions and guidelines;
 - (xi) ensuring fair wages/consistent policy for workers WSIB claims to align with COVID-19 impacts;
 - (xii) advancing investments for major infrastructure projects as a catalyst for job creation and economic stimulus;
 - (xiii) investing in skills development, employment supports and employer incentives for marginalized groups; and,
 - (xiv) support a home renovation tax credit; and,
- (b) That staff be directed to devise work plans for follow-up on the task force recommendations with their federal and provincial counterparts such as deputy ministers, directors and policy staff.