

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.