

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Public Works Committee: July 7, 2021

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Locke Street BIA Area Pedestrianization Grant (Ward 1)

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has hit Canadian small business harder than the 2008 financial crisis;

WHEREAS, small businesses represent 97.9% of all Canadian businesses, contributing almost half of the GDP generated by the private sector and are collectively Canada's largest employer, putting more than 8.4 million Canadians to work;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery provided multi-sectoral leadership and direction to guide Hamilton's economic recovery in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has formulated an action driven plan to position the City of Hamilton now, for long-term, sustainable and equitable economic recovery.

WHEREAS, action item 12 of the Mayor's Task Force report stated that the City of Hamilton must find solutions in relation to outdoor space that will create attractive and safe walkable streets;

WHEREAS, action item 67 of the Mayor's Task Force report identified street closures and placemaking projects as actions that could revitalize main streets and support local businesses, attractions and tourism facilities;

WHEREAS, action item 4 of the Mayor's Task Force report identified the need to champion street closures and placemaking projects through all seasons to help revitalize main streets and support local businesses;

WHEREAS, action item 78 identified placemaking an effective way to support the well-being and health of workplaces;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force report recognized that Hamilton requires an equity-informed economic recovery plan that addresses systemic inequalities including the disproportionate impact on women;

WHEREAS, the Locke Street BIA is composed of 80 active small businesses and approximately 55% of these businesses are female owned or co-owned;

WHEREAS, the Locke Street BIA experienced a disruption of regular business activity with significant lost revenue in year 2019 as a result of the reconstruction of the street;

WHEREAS, most of the federal COVID-19 financial assistance programs for small business used 2019 to calculate the percentage revenue decline for the qualifying periods of 2020/21 in determining the subsidy rate and as such this does not reflect an accurate representation of year over year lost revenue decline caused by the 2019 road reconstruction;

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020, in response to COVID-19 restrictions, Locke BIA business members closed the street to vehicle traffic on Saturdays in August and September in an effort to support Locke BIA restaurants and retail stores. This effort resulted in increased revenues for small businesses;

WHEREAS, the Locke Street BIA is planning on opening up Locke Street South to pedestrians each Saturday, for 11 Saturdays, for both dining and retail BIA members, in an effort to provide a safe environment and meet COVID-19 restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, the accumulative costs of the closure exceeds the funds available to the Locke Street BIA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$7,000 be provided to the Locke Street Business Improvement Area to help support safe street closures from the Ward 1 Area Rating Capital Reinvestment Discretionary Fund (3302109100); and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.