



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 8, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	2021 Grey Cup Update (PED18234(d)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Ryan McHugh (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4132
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**Discussion of Confidential Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(d) in closed session is subject to the following requirement(s) of the City of Hamilton’s Procedural By-law and the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001:**

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

## **RATIONALE FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(d) is being considered in closed session as it contains details related to the confidential negotiation.

## **RATIONALE FOR MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY**

Staff are recommending that Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(d) remain confidential to protect the competitiveness of current and future negotiations.

## **COUNCIL DIRECTION**

Staff were directed to provide periodic updates on the status of the 2021 Grey Cup.

## **INFORMATION**

In February of 2019, the Canadian Football League (CFL) announced that the 2021 Grey Cup would be held at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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On August 17, 2020, the CFL announced the cancellation of the entire 2020 CFL season. This included the cancellation of the 2020 Grey Cup, which was to be held in Regina, Saskatchewan.

On November 20, 2020, the CFL released the schedule for the 2021 Grey Cup season. The season was to begin on June 10, 2021 and conclude with the Grey Cup on November 21, 2021 in Hamilton.

On April 21, 2021, the CFL announced the delay of the start of the 2021 CFL season to August 5, 2021 and the Grey Cup to December 12, 2021 respectively. This April 21, 2021 communication also expressed the continued uncertainty around:

- “The approval of public health officials across the country of our plans for protecting the health of our players, coaches, and ultimately our fans, so a 2021 season is safe”; and,
- “Permission from governments to host a significant number of fans in the stands, in a significant number of venues at the start of the season, and in the rest of our venues soon after that, so a 2021 season is financially tenable for our clubs”.

The CFL’s communication highlighted the importance of ticket revenue to CFL clubs and spoke to various contingency scenarios that were being contemplated:

- “For example, if we are unable to host fans in the East because of COVID-19, we are prepared to start play in the West, provided eastern teams can return to their home provinces, and play in front of their fans, later in the season.
- And we have contingency plans in place, should factors beyond our control delay the start of our season beyond August 5. The bottom line is we are optimistic we will have a season in 2021, culminating in a great Grey Cup.”

On July 9, 2021, the Ontario Provincial Government announced that as of 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021, Ontario would be moving to “Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopening”. Under Step Three, “capacity for outdoor spectators is 75% of the usual seating capacity or 15,000 people, whichever is less.”

Subsequently, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats put forward their reopening plan to the City of Hamilton’s Emergency Operations Centre, which was approved.

According to the Roadmap to Reopening, “the province will remain in Step Three for at least 21 days and until 80% of the eligible population aged 12 and over has received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 75% have received their second, with no public health unit having less than 70% of their eligible population aged 12 and over fully vaccinated.”

On July 30, 2021, a spokesperson for Health Minister Christine Elliott said that “upon exiting the Roadmap, the vast majority of public health measures, including capacity limits, will be lifted. Only a small number of measures will remain in place, including the requirement for passive screening, such as posting a sign, and businesses requiring a safety plan.”

On July 10, 2021, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats began their training camp at Tim Hortons Field and their home opener is scheduled to take place at Tim Hortons Field on September 6, 2021. As permitted under Step Three of the Provincial Roadmap to Reopening, up to 15,000 people could attend the home opener in person.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” - Confidential 2021 Grey Cup Update

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