




CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Strategic Initiatives Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 10, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2022 Council Referred Business Case – Waterfalls Enforcement (PED18011(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Marty Hazell (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4888
SUBMITTED BY:	Marty Hazell Director, Strategic Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the 2022 Council referred business case involving increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfall areas, be referred to the 2023 Budget process for consideration; and,
- (b) That the increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfall areas pilot program be extended for one year to end on April 1, 2023, with operations ending November 15, 2022, at an estimated at \$361,190, to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (Account # 110046).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020/2021, staff provided increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfall areas as a pilot program approved by City Council, which was to be considered as part of the 2022 Budget process to be made permanent. If this program is not made permanent through the 2022 Budget process, the pilot project will end.

Given that this pilot project has been operating in unusual and atypical circumstances of the COVID pandemic, staff are not in a position to provide Council with strong data with respect to its effectiveness. Therefore, staff feel it prudent to defer the Business Case to the 2023 Budget in order to be able to better assess the financial viability and overall

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effectiveness of increased enforcement in Waterfall areas under normal conditions (i.e. a 'non-pandemic'). Staff is further recommending that this pilot be continued in the interim, as a pilot project, for one additional year.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The estimated total cost for continuation of pilot project (two Temporary FT MLE Officers and 5 Temporary PT Parking Enforcement Officers 3 days/week) from March 15, 2022 to November 15, 2022 is estimated at \$466,190. However, with \$60,000 of expenses already budgeted for and \$45,000 in potential revenues, the net cost to the City would be \$361,190 to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (Account # 110046).

In 2021, revenues of the pilot program exceeded projections (\$168,483 vs. \$45,000 projected). However, this was in part due to the longer than expected COVID restrictions which correlated with high activity around waterfalls areas. Additionally, as enforcement continues compliance has increased, resulting in declining fines issued. The above costs utilize conservative revenues which match that of the original pilot program. Any surpluses created by the pilot will need to be reconciled through the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

Staffing: Consistent with the original pilot the Waterfalls Enforcement program will be staffed with two Temporary FT MLE Officers and five Temporary PT Parking Enforcement Officers.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In dealing with Report PED18011(b) (Increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfall Areas Across the City - Pilot Program) the General Issues Committee, on February 11, 2021, approved the following:

- (a) That, subject to approval of the funding source in recommendation (b), staff be directed to assign additional Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) and Parking Enforcement staff to Waterfall areas where challenges have been identified including, but not limited to, weekends from March 15, 2021 through to November 15, 2021, by approving additional temporary FTEs as follows: - by adding 2

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Temporary FT Municipal Law Enforcement Officers; and - by adding 5 Temporary PT Parking Enforcement Officers;

- (b) That funding for the enhanced Municipal Law and Parking enforcement in Waterfall areas, including staffing and vehicle costs, estimated at a total incremental net cost of up to \$354,000 be funded from the City's Tax Stabilization Reserve 110046;
- (c) That staff be directed to report back in January 2022 after the conclusion of the recommended pilot with an overall evaluation, including measurable results such as fines issued for various offences, revenues generated, etc., and with recommendations as to whether the enhanced enforcement should be continued in 2022.

The above recommendations were approved by City Council on March 31, 2021.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance staff were consulted in the development of the recommendations in this report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

To date, increased enforcement has been successful based on public and Councillor office feedback and has resulted in an observed increase in compliance with by-law regulations; has contributed to improved public safety and has reduced the number of complaints regarding unsafe parking. Therefore, staff feel it prudent to defer this business case to 2023 in order to be able to better assess the financials under normal conditions (i.e. a 'non-pandemic'). Some of the analytics being assessed for this pilot include; by-law charges and compliance rates, fee and fine revenues, et al which will be used to accurately assess the financial viability and overall success of the program.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could assess the pilot during the 2022 budget process as originally approved. However, staff are not in a position to provide Council with strong data with respect to its effectiveness.

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Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.