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Mark A McNeil
Ancaster, ON

February 18, 2022

Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Re: Temporary Outdoor Dining Program

Dear Councillors:

I write as an individual, a citizen of Hamilton, although I am a member of the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities, with respect to the Planning Committee endorsement of the staff report PED22051 regarding the Outdoor Dining Program. Specifically, the recommendation to make the Temporary Outdoor Dining Program permanent.

To ensure that the Outdoor Dining Program is fully accessible and does not present any barriers to travel for persons with disabilities, James Kemp and Tim Nolan from the ACPD presented to the Planning Committee on February 15. They requested that staff and their staff report, both, be referred to the ACPD working group on accessible outdoor spaces and parklands before proceeding to make this program permanent.

The Committee instead voted 6 – 0 to accept the staff report to make the program permanent now, ignoring any need for accessibility. I believe this is a mistake on the part of the Planning Committee, placing the City at risk of non-compliance with the AODA, the Ontario Human Rights Code and its own standards for safe and barrier – free pedestrian pathways in the City.

I am not opposed to outdoor dining or making this program permanent. Weather permitting, I prefer to dine outdoors.

I ask only that this program be accessible and ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in this City. I request that the staff report and staff be referred to the ACPD working group to secure full accessibility with respect to all matters associated with outdoor dining before proceeding at this time.

This matter is important for the City and all its citizens, including those with disabilities. We have a duty to be thoughtful and considerate in this process, and I implore you to do so now.

With appreciation,

Mark A. McNeil
Citizen of Hamilton