



Hamilton

**CLEANLINESS & SECURITY IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE TASK FORCE
REPORT 21-001**

Thursday, December 9, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall, this meeting was held virtually.

Present: Councillor J. Farr (Chair)
S. Braithwaite (Vice-Chair), International Village BIA
K. Jarvi, Downtown BIA
S. Laurie, Community Representative
S. Sutherland, Community Representative
P. Trainor, Community Representative

Absent

With Regrets: Councillor N. Nann, C. Topp, James Street South Business District,
T Potocic, James Street North Business Merchants, A. Stajrer,
Community Representative

Also Present: J. Davis, Business Development & BIA Officer
K. Barnett, Manager, Service Delivery, Licensing & By-Law Services
K. Beaton, Manager, Planning and Economic Development
J. McCormick, Manager, Waste Collections, Environmental Services
F. Miscione, Inspector, Hamilton Police Service
D. Wright, Acting Sergeant., Hamilton Police Service

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda:

CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS:

In order to accommodate staff schedules, the following agenda items are to be moved up on the agenda to be considered following Item 4.1:

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.4 Police Update

The agenda for the December 9, 2021 meeting of the Cleanliness & Security in the Downtown Core Task Force was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(i) November 12, 2020 (Item 4.1)

The Minutes of the November 12, 2020, meeting of the Cleanliness & Security in the Downtown Core Task Force be approved, as presented.

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

(i) Cleanliness and Issues at Ferguson Station (Item 10.1)

S. Braithwaite reported that issues at Ferguson Station, Hamilton, including mural tagging, pieces of trees being cut down, loitering, garbage, theft of copper wiring are negatively affecting area businesses. S. Braithwaite noted that a large soup kitchen operates at Ferguson Station on Wednesday evenings, which has been causing disruption in the area. S. Braithwaite requested that Ferguson Station be considered more of a priority asset for the City. City Economic Development staff have been kept apprised of the issues.

(ii) Encampments Update (Item 10.2)

K. Barnett reported that there is an Encampment Response Team comprised of representatives from Police, Municipal Law Enforcement, Housing, Outreach and Parks that meets daily to discuss issues related to individual encampment sites and to problem-solve to reach a successful outcome. K. Barnett detailed the challenges that occurred in addressing encampments during the July 2020 injunction and after the injunction was lifted. K. Barnett advised that staff continue to enforce the Parks By-law and address the many challenges faced by people living in encampments and to help to provide a temporary or permanent housing solution. K. Barnett also advised that approximately 50 complaints about encampments are received every week and a large amount of staff are dedicated to respectfully and compassionately achieving successful outcomes.

(iii) Graffiti Update (Item 10.3)

K. Beaton reported that there are two co-op students hired on a yearly basis dedicated to responding to graffiti within the City on private properties, City properties, parks and utilities. In Ward 2, there were 215 site visits, both

reactive and proactive, in response to graffiti. Compliance was gained for 160 properties. There are 55 files open and the compliance date extended until April 2022 due to the weather and ability to clean up. In Ward 3 there were 159 files, with compliance on 134 files.

S. Braithwaite advised that the BIA completes a bi-annual graffiti audit that is forwarded to staff. K. Beaton advised she will include the audit in the statistics.

(iv) Police Update (Item 10.4)

Inspector Miscione, Hamilton Police Service, advised that the HPS Action Team is involved with encampments in the City by assisting Municipal Law Enforcement with daily outreach in the process to attempt to find people shelter or alternative arrangements to work towards a clear out of encampments. Inspector Miscione provided an update of statistics on HPS action in Downtown Hamilton over the past two years, with aid of a presentation.

Inspector Miscione, with assistance from Acting Sergeant Wright, answered questions from Committee members.

(v) Issues at corners of Barton Street East and James Street North (Item 10.5) and Trash and Food Packaging near Community Fridge, John Street North, north of Barton Street East (Item 10.6)

S. Laurie reported increased waste, both illegally dumped items and trash due to the presence of the Community Fridge, at the corner of John Street North, north of Barton Street East. S. Braithwaite reported increased waste from residents living above downtown businesses. J. McCormick spoke about ways to attempt to mitigate waste issues including installing a waste receptacle at the location and deploying staff on a regular basis to clean and enforce.

P. Trainor reported residential waste being blown by the wind. J. McCormick advised that he will follow up at the next meeting about the enforcement of garbage being placed at the curb prior to 7 p.m. the day before collection.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

That there being no further business, the Cleanliness & Security in the Downtown Core Task Force adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Farr
Chair, Cleanliness & Security in the
Downtown Core Task Force

Carrie McIntosh
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk