



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Transportation Planning and Parking Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 6, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Dedicated Mohawk College Enforcement (PED18220(b)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	James Buffett (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3177
SUBMITTED BY:	Brian Hollingworth Director, Transportation Planning and Parking Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That a 12-month extension of the temporary Parking Enforcement Officer for the Mohawk College Precinct be approved;
- (b) That the estimated gross annual cost of \$86,900 and a net cost of \$0 continue to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve;
- (c) That staff report back with results and recommendations following the 12-months at the end of Q1 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2019, Council approved a pilot project to create a temporary Parking Enforcement Officer position to address the significant number of parking enforcement requests in the Mohawk College Precinct. This pilot project was approved for a 12-month extension in February 2020 just prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The extension was approved on the basis that the pilot project achieved positive results and enforcement revenues substantially offset staff costs. The Recommendations approved in February 2020 also enabled greater flexibility for this Officer to be deployed to other

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areas of the City, a change that proved to be useful and cost effective during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Since February 2020, parking activity in the Mohawk College Area has not been reflective of normal conditions. As a result, the purpose of this Report is to recommend a subsequent 12-month extension of the temporary Parking Enforcement Officer.

It is noted that, full in-person learning may not return to Mohawk College until Fall 2022, but parking challenges in the area are still present. Parking enforcement demand across the entire City of Hamilton is experiencing rapid growth, with the total number of complaints increasing annually. In 2019, City-wide requests for enforcement rose 14% over the previous year.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: \$86,900 gross cost to Transportation Planning and Parking, but at a Net Cost of \$0 to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

Staffing: A 12-month extension for the use of a temporary full-time employee (FTE) Parking Control Officer (PCO) until end of Q1 2022.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting of May 23, 2018, Council passed a Motion from the Ward Councillor “that staff look at the feasibility of a dedicated PCO in the Mohawk College Precinct”.

At the Planning Committee Meeting on September 18, 2018, staff submitted Recommendation Report PED18220 outlining the feasibility of the Pilot Program. Staff indicated that a dedicated PCO in the Mohawk College Area could provide a heightened level of enforcement and at a ‘net zero’ cost.

At the Council meeting of September 26, 2018, Council approved a one-year pilot program using one temporary FTE Parking Enforcement Officer for the Mohawk College Precinct at an estimated gross annual cost of \$84 K and net cost of \$0; and that staff report back with results and recommendations following the one-year pilot program.

The pilot program was amended by Council at its meeting of June 26, 2019, where it approved Item 7.1, which read as follows: “That the one (1) Temporary FTE Parking

Enforcement Officer assigned to the one (1) year pilot program for Mohawk College Precinct, be reassigned over the summer months, to other areas to cover vacation/sick time.”

At the Council Meeting of February 26/27, 2020, Council approved the following:

- (1) A 12-month extension to the pilot program;
- (2) The temporary Parking Enforcement Officer Supplement City-wide parking enforcement in addition to the Mohawk College Precinct;
- (3) That staff report back with results and recommendation at the end of Q1 2021; and,
- (4) The item respecting staff report back with results and recommendations following the one-year pilot program respecting the temporary Dedicated Mohawk College Parking Enforcement Officer be identified as complete and removed from the Planning Committee Outstanding Business List.

The remainder of 2020 saw unprecedented challenges to the entire City of Hamilton. During this 12-month extension, enforcement regulations were lifted and relaxed to assist with “stay at home” initiatives/orders, quarantining, and self-isolation. Education Institutions at all levels had closures and major adaptations to online learning. These factors immensely changed existing pressures and needs in the Mohawk College Area, and we are not clear on what the future needs may be.

Despite the changes in the Mohawk College Area, the additional temporary staff member was key in assisting ongoing Parking Enforcement operations and service provision, namely the ability to assist with short-term absences and the need to significantly alter staffing schedules in response to COVID-19.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Staff had regular interaction and communication over the course of the Pilot Program and leading up to this Report with the Ward 8 Councillor.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The 12-month extension that was approved in February 2020 was meant to serve as a window of observation and analysis. With the onset of COVID-19, our Parking Enforcement Services were significantly altered, and historical enforcement needs within The Mohawk College Precinct were significantly impacted. Time Limit Enforcement was relaxed across the City, which is the focus of enforcement in this area. Utilization of the surrounding community for transient parking attending the college was and continues to be significantly reduced with campus rolling closures and transition to online learning. In the end, during 2020, Parking Penalty Issuance fell below pre-pilot program levels with this theorized temporary change of parking behaviours in the Mohawk College Precinct.

Despite the reduced need within the Mohawk College Precinct, other pressures, such as short-term absences relating to COVID Screening Protocols, and altered staff scheduling, were alleviated with this additional staffing resource.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

- (a) Staff could be directed to approve one new permanent FTE PCO, to enforce the regulations in the Mohawk College Precinct and enhance overall City of Hamilton service provision, and that the increased complement of one FTE be referred to in the finalization of the 2021 budget process or move to the 2022 budget process for consideration; and,
- (b) Staff could be directed to immediately end the Pilot Program and revert to regular routine enforcement and calls for service.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

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APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A

JB:cr