

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council: August 18, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR A. HORWATH

City of Hamilton – Request to Abandon Greenbelt Development

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to reducing the cost of housing and has pledged to facilitate the construction of 47,000 housing units by 2031;

WHEREAS, City of Hamilton staff have concluded that residential housing development within the former Greenbelt lands is unnecessary to facilitate construction of the pledged housing units;

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2023, Hamilton City Council declared “The Minister’s decision to remove 795 hectares of land from the Greenbelt Plan is unnecessary and is not supported by the City of Hamilton”;

WHEREAS, the Auditor General for the Province of Ontario has confirmed Hamilton’s conclusion that “Greenbelt land was not needed to meet the current housing targets assigned to them by the Housing Ministry”;

WHEREAS, development of the Greenbelt would be a significant financial liability to Hamilton taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the Auditor General for the Province of Ontario stated: “Land sites removed from the Greenbelt in December 2022 were largely not serviced, were not in their servicing plans, and that many of the sites would be challenging to prioritize and service in the near future...” and “Some of these sites would require considerable infrastructure to prepare them for housing development”; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt should be protected as a vital element of Hamilton’s environmental and agricultural resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton requests the Province of Ontario abandon its plan to develop the Greenbelt and that all lands within the City of Hamilton removed from the Greenbelt be reinstated; and
- (b) That this resolution be circulated to all Ontario municipalities where Greenbelt lands were slated for development for support and a similar declaration to the Province of Ontario.