

**CITY OF HAMILTON
M O T I O N**

Audit, Finance and Administration Committee: July 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG

Review of the City of Hamilton Volunteer Advisory Committees

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is dedicated to advancing and articulating City decision-making efforts by ensuring the process by which participants are provided information and are engaged is meaningful, clear, convenient, and accessible to all residents;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton supports community engagement as it empowers individuals and groups to give them a voice and a platform to express their opinions, concerns, and ideas, which encourages active participation, enabling community members an opportunity to shape the decisions that affect them directly;

WHEREAS, engagement in the community fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to increased community pride and motivation to work towards common goals and provides policy makers and elected officials with meaningful feedback that can inform decision making;

WHEREAS, Community engagement promotes collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders, including residents, local businesses, community-based organizations, multiple levels of government and non-profits, thereby, bringing people together and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise, leading to innovative solutions and shared idea generation;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee with Persons with Disabilities and the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee are Sub-Committees of Council and are required by Provincial legislation, they are outside the scope of this proposed review

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is currently creating a robust public engagement policy and administrative framework; and

WHEREAS, enhancing engagement throughout civic participation processes can inherently support high-level Term of Council Priorities including (1) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and (2) Trust and Confidence in City Government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That the City of Hamilton pause all Volunteer Advisory Committees, with the exception of the Climate Change Advisory Committee, for which recruitment for the current Council term is underway, and the Hamilton Veterans Committee, so they can continue to plan the 2023 Remembrance Day Service; and
- b) That City Manager's Office and Corporate Services staff be directed to report back to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee with recommendations on the following:
 - (i) best practices that prioritizes resident engagement including access to, understanding of and participation in community engagement;
 - (ii) review and provide recommendations to Council as informed by existing partnerships with local community-based organizations and networks to help shape and advise decision-making efforts on City initiatives, programs, services, policies, and by-laws;
 - (iii) existing community-based engagement methods inclusive of the Volunteer Advisory Committees to fulfil the priorities of Council aligned with the Term of Council priorities 2022 – 2026; and
 - (iv) a resource list of local equity-deserving groups doing community and grassroots organizing that can be contacted for engagement and feedback on City Wide processes and policies.