



Hamilton

# PLANNING COMMITTEE

## **Report PED23209 – Farm 911 - Emergency Access Point Program**

December 5, 2023

Presented by: Heather Travis

# What is Farm 911?

- Also referred to as the Emily Project – inspired by an accident involving a young girl named Emily Trudeau on a family farm in Ontario
- The goal of the Farm 911 project is to ensure that all vacant agricultural farm parcels, which traditionally would not receive a separate civic address, are assigned a Farm 911 - Emergency Access Point number
- Objective is to allow for ease of property identification and speedier emergency response times to vacant farm parcels



# Background

At its meeting of January 18, 2021, the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee provided the following request:

*“That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee respectfully requests that appropriate City staff be directed to develop a framework to provide emergency 911 signs to owners of unidentified farm properties in Hamilton, at their request, at no cost to the applicant.”*

Staff have consulted with the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee throughout the process of preparing the Farm 911 program for feedback and input.

# Key Program Highlights

- Program will be offered free of charge to property owners
  - No application fee will be applied
  - No fee for signage, including installation
- Voluntary program
- Vacant rural and agricultural properties are eligible
- More than one Farm 911 – Emergency Access Point number may be permitted per property if there are multiple existing access points

# Key Program Highlights

Application form will include a waiver acknowledging that assigning a Farm 911 – EAP number:

- Does not permit further use or development of the property without appropriate approvals;
- Does not constitute a civic address for mail delivery purposes and is to assist in emergency situations only;
- Does not constitute the approval of the existing entrance nor does it deem the access safe for use;
- Does not guarantee that access is adequate for emergency vehicles; and,
- Requires the landowner to maintain and keep the sign and access in good repair.

# Signage



# Communications Plan

- City's Communications team is preparing a communications strategy with the objective to create awareness of the new program and encourage participation of the agricultural community.
- Strategy will include the following:
  - Media release promoting the new program
  - Social media messaging and website updates
  - Targeted emails to stakeholders
  - Graphics and other materials
- Communication materials can be shared with the members of the ARASC and rural Councillors for sharing and distribution with networks and constituents.

# Staff Recommendation

Staff are recommending the following actions to implement the Farm 911 – Emergency Access Point program:

- a) That the Farm 911 – Emergency Access Point Policy, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23209, be approved.
- b) That the amendments to the City of Hamilton Municipal Addressing Policy to implement the Farm 911 – Emergency Access Point Policy, attached as Appendix “B” to Report PED23209, be approved.
- c) That \$94,850 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund (Account # 112221) be approved through the 2024 capital budget process for the Farm 911 – Emergency Access Point program.

# Next Steps

- Planning Committee – December 5, 2023
- Council – December 13, 2023
- Launch of program with Communication strategy roll-out – January 2024



Hamilton

THANK YOU

THE CITY OF HAMILTON PLANNING COMMITTEE