

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

City Council: November 22, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR A. WILSON.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

One-Time Request for Funding to Support Community Safety Needs in Ward 13

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton, through the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan has identified addressing rising hate incidents as a priority action and has committed to addressing and reducing hate and identity-based violence including anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, xenophobia, transphobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination;

WHEREAS, an increased atmosphere of identity-based hatred, including but not limited to: antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and racism, has resulted in real and growing safety concerns for equity-deserving members of our community;

WHEREAS, there have been recent acts of violence against Jewish communal organizations in Canada, including arson attempts on Jewish congregations in Montreal and shots fired at Yeshiva Gedola and Talmud Torah Elementary School, and substantiated threats to Jewish communal organizations in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, Hamilton Jewish Family Services (HJFS) has identified substantiated increased safety concerns for their workers and clients that will require increased expenditures on security measures; and

WHEREAS, HJFS is committing to meeting this increased operating expense on a go-forward basis but requires immediate gap funding to implement these measures without service reductions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$7,500 be allocated from the Ward 13 Cell Tower/Non-property tax Revenue account (3301609613) to the Hamilton Jewish Family Services on a one time basis to acquire security services for a period of 3 months, effective immediately and ending February 29th, 2024;
- (b) That any funds allocated and distributed be exempt and not be counted toward any formula that restricts regular funding from the City including the City Enrichment Fund for the years 2023 and 2024; and
- (c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.