

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee: May 28, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. TADESCO.....

Policy Framework for Voluntary Donations for Community Benefits

WHEREAS, Community Benefits Agreements have become a growing tool in other Ontario cities;

WHEREAS, the City of Ottawa has been using Community Benefits Agreements as a tool to negotiate between private developers, communities, and city staff as part of major development applications in Ottawa, such as the Manor Park Estates and Herongate agreements;

WHEREAS, a number of formats for Community Benefits Agreements have been used by other communities, including the City of Ottawa, over the last several years in the case of voluntary donations and other community benefits,

WHEREAS, voluntary contributions have not been advanced by Ward Councillors and staff for developments because there is an absence of a policy framework governing such contributions;

WHEREAS, interpretations from the City of Ottawa Integrity Commissioner to Ottawa Councillors have indicated that the provision of voluntary donations for community benefits is a policy matter;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has no existing donations to the City for Community Benefits Policy to specifically address such developer contributions or provide guidance to Members of Council; and

WHEREAS other municipalities, including Ottawa and Toronto, have established a policy to provide a framework for voluntary donations for community benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to reach out to the City of Ottawa and the City of Toronto respecting best practices and lessons learned on the use of Community Benefit Agreements and voluntary donations and report back to the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee;

(b) That staff be directed to:

- (i) Work with Councillors of the Community Benefits Sub-Committee to identify projects in their wards which might be used as a template to prototype certain types of Community Benefits Agreements/Voluntary donations agreements;
- (ii) Begin opening dialogue with any developers identified by the Ward Councillors to understand expectations and the potential for voluntary community benefit donations; and
- (iii) Report back to the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee with suggested project requirements for prototype agreements.