

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

General Issues Committee: November 20, 2024

**MOVED BY MAYOR A. HORWATH.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

**Ensuring Public Safety and the Preservation of Hamilton’s Built Environment**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to ensuring public safety and the preservation of its built environment;

WHEREAS, the significant deterioration of built structures can pose serious risks to the safety, integrity, and livability of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS, timely and comprehensive responses by the City of Hamilton to deteriorating built structures are essential for maintaining the public’s safety, trust and confidence;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to conduct a thorough review of the recent building collapses in downtown Hamilton, including:
  - (i) a complete history and timeline of all City interactions relating to the physical state of these buildings (e.g., inspections, designations, by-law infractions/penalties, permits, etc.)
  - (ii) an analysis of the causes leading to the collapse of these properties;
- (b) That staff be directed to compile an inventory of buildings and structures across the City of Hamilton that have been subject to property standards, by-law enforcement, building code violations, or other safety-related concerns;
- (c) That staff be directed to undertake a review of current enforcement processes related to building structure safety and property standards, identify potential gaps, and report back with findings and proposed changes to ensure timely enforcement of by-laws and regulations, with the aim of achieving better outcomes and increasing accountability;
- (d) That staff be directed to provide recommendations for updates to City policies and by-laws, including but not limited to the Property Standards By-law; and
- (e) That staff be directed to provide a preliminary report with the relevant findings and possible interim recommendations to a General Issues Committee meeting in Q1 2025.