

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): January 23, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

Elimination of Council Referred Items 11 & 12 City Enrichment Fund Increases

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund invests in the community by providing taxpayer funded grants from the City of Hamilton.

WHEREAS the purpose of the City Enrichment Fund is to provide transparency and access to taxpayer funded grants for eligible not-for profit organizations, registered charities, grassroots organizations, and professional artist projects that are determined through an independent, transparent, and defined application and approval process.

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund protects the interests of taxpayers by ensuring that City funding is only directed to legitimate, eligible, organizations that support the City's strategic plan and Our Future Hamilton – Community Vision.

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund was created to eliminate arbitrary Councillor directed funding to organizations, groups and individuals that may be, or may be perceived to be, politically motivated spending intended to gain political support.

WHEREAS all Councillors have access to various reserve funding accounts including the Area Rating Special Capital Discretionary Reserve and Non-Property Tax Revenue Reserves.

WHEREAS subsequent to the 2022 municipal election, various Councillors initiated their own "Ward Community Grants" programs that now direct taxpayer funding to community organizations, groups and individuals at the discretion of the Ward Councillor without appropriate financial oversight.

WHEREAS there is no purpose to increase funding to the City Enrichment Fund when individual Councillors have created their own "Ward Community Grant" programs and continue to direct hundreds of thousands of dollars per Ward, annually, to their own individually selected recipients.

That the 2025 Budget, ***be amended***, as follows:

- (a) Eliminate Council referred Item 11 - 2025 Proposed Increase to City Enrichment Fund \$568,110
- (b) Eliminate Council referred Item 12 – Digital Program Area – City Enrichment Fund \$100,000