

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. FRANCIS.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Removal of Funding for the Poet in Place Pilot Program

WHEREAS, residential taxpayers are looking at a potential 5.7% increase in their property taxes;

WHEREAS, council has declared an affordability crisis;

WHEREAS, the threat of looming US tariffs will create an economic recession in Canada and will have a billion dollar impact on Hamilton's local economy that could impact thousands of jobs;

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a priority for the municipality, and every expenditure should be evaluated for its impact on taxpayers;

Whereas the Poet in Place pilot program is funded at \$25,000 per annum allocated from the Culture Strategic Priorities Capital Project;

WHEREAS, \$10,000 per year is designated as an honorarium for the Poet in Place, while \$15,000 per year is allocated for program-related expenses;

WHEREAS, these funds could be redirected to provide tax relief to residents by applying the savings directly to the tax levy; and,

WHEREAS, the municipality should prioritize essential services and initiatives that provide the greatest benefit to the community as a whole;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, **be amended**, as follows:

- (a) That the \$25,000 allocated for the Poet in Place be removed from the 2025 Proposed Tax Budget; and,
- (b) That the \$25,000 in related funding be moved to the unallocated Capital Reserve for the purpose of funding infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, and parks.