

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Financial Relief to Help Offset the Increase Cost of Municipal Police Service

WHEREAS, the Ontario government will provide over \$77 million in financial relief to small and rural municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

WHEREAS, Solicitor General Michael Kerzner stated: “The financial relief we (the Ontario government) are proposing will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that keeps families and businesses safe”.

WHEREAS, the Ontario government acknowledges that the financial impacts resulting from police collective bargaining agreements has a significant impact on municipal budgets.

WHEREAS, all of the factors that resulted in significant costs to policing for small and rural communities also exist in large municipalities.

WHEREAS, municipalities that do not rely on the Ontario Provincial Police also require financial relief to offset the increasing cost of police services.

WHEREAS, urban municipalities have additional challenges such as homeless encampments, guns, gangs, drug trafficking, auto theft and organized crime that require significant police resources and specialized equipment and personnel.

WHEREAS, residents overwhelmingly support police and request a stronger and more effective police presence in their neighbourhoods.

WHEREAS, the Ontario government is a strong supporter of policing throughout the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton request the Province of Ontario provide financial relief to the City of Hamilton due budget impacts of the increasing cost of policing;
- (b) That City Finance staff work with the City Manager, Mayor’s Office, Police Services Board and the Chief of Police to quantify a specific financial relief request; and,

- (c) That this direction be circulated to Ontario Big City Mayor and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).