



February 6th, 2025 - Submitted as written correspondence for the February 7 2025 Budget GIC

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is a written delegation that will be touching on a number of motions that are on the agenda for the February 7th 2025 budget GIC meeting. It is unfortunate that these consequential motions are being brought forward after the public has had their final opportunity to delegate in person or virtually.

Item 9.1: Elimination of Council Referred Items 11 & 12 City Enrichment Fund Increases

We encourage Council to not cancel the increase to the City Enrichment Fund. This program funds projects in line with City interests, and for some years now organizations (such as those in the Just Recovery Coalition) have been calling for it to be increased.

Items 9.3 and 9.5: Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations and Taxpayer Funding Exclusion for Organizations Involved in Litigation Against the City of Hamilton

There are real concerns with these motions and what type of precedent they set in the City. As an organization that exists as a result of a successful legal challenge against the City of Hamilton, and as an organization that in the decades since has successfully worked collaboratively with the City on some issues while at times also holding disagreements on others - we feel it's necessary to speak out against these motions. The City of Hamilton is a large corporation with various different departments, staff with different views, and Councillors who can disagree greatly. It is vital that the City of Hamilton remain capable of working collaboratively with community organizations when there is an alignment, and remain respectful and still open to collaboration when disagreements arise.

Items 9.5 and 9.6: Electric Maintenance Vehicles and Climate Change Initiative

When the City of Hamilton declared a climate emergency and cited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report that stated the global community had 11 years left to avert irreversible climate disruption, there were concerns that this messaging was too scary or "doomful". Since then, it has become increasingly apparent that attempts to limit global warming to 2 °C are failing or already have failed. The City of Hamilton's spending to adapt and mitigate climate change is so negligible compared to the overall budget that it does not appear on the City's annual budget graph.

Inaction by the City of Hamilton on climate change was the status quo for too long - and in the emergency situation we are in now, delaying climate action is just another form of climate change denial. The proposed initiatives from the Climate Change Reserve are modest investments that all will improve the City and help us prepare for the future. Do not vote to cut them.

- Ian Borsuk, Executive Director