

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 4, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

2025 Temporary Outdoor Patio Program With Traffic Control Plans And Control Measures

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton first launched the temporary On-Street Patio Pilot Program in 2016, which became the permanent Temporary Outdoor Patio Program in 2022;

WHEREAS, the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program provides an opportunity for restaurants and cafes to open temporary outdoor patios in on-street parking spaces, off-street parking lots, sidewalks, alleyways and boulevards;

WHEREAS, the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program provides an important opportunity for local restaurants and cafes to increase their capacity through outdoor dining, and also helps to animate local commercial areas;

WHEREAS, during COVID, the City waived all applicable City fees for the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program in order to support economic recovery;

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Ontario Traffic Council (OTC) issued guidelines for Restaurant Patios within the Right of Way which recommended enhanced traffic control measures and safety devices, which the City subsequently incorporated as a local practice for the patio program;

WHEREAS, in 2023 business owners again became responsible for some costs of the program including costs associated with the occupancy of metered parking spaces, patio set-up and installation of crash barriers, with Council approval to continue to waive other safety device installation costs (traffic control plans, signs and delineators) and the program application fees;

WHEREAS, local restaurants and cafes continue to be impacted by reduced business as a result of hybrid working and reduced foot traffic in some of our commercial areas; and

WHEREAS, at the General Issues Committee Budget meeting of January 30, 2024, staff were directed to investigate and report back on any potential savings that may exist in transferring the event coordination responsibilities to in-house from the current

SEAT model, and identify the resources (staffing, material and vehicle costs) and processes required for a cross-departmental City of Hamilton Team to facilitate all processes, including development, approval, and implementation of Traffic Control Plans for temporary closures needed by Event Organizers as part of this review.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the General Managers of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development, be directed to include in their report back to the General Issues Committee respecting Internal Facilitation of Restaurant Patios within the Right of Way per the Ontario Traffic Council (OTC) Guidelines, per the following additional items:
 - (i) The resources (staffing, material and vehicle costs) and processes required for a cross-departmental City of Hamilton Team to facilitate the installation of Traffic Control Plans associated with the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program;
 - (ii) Identify any potential savings that may exist in transferring the responsibility for installing all Traffic Control Devices (safety devices including crash barriers) associated with the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program for set-up of patios on the City road allowance, from business owners to the City;
 - (iii) Provide a jurisdiction scan on the adoption of the 2022 Ontario Traffic Council (OTC) issued guidelines for Restaurant Patios within the Right of Way requirements by other municipalities;
 - (iii) Input from Legal & Risk Management Services Division respecting risks, liability and insurance costs; and
 - (iv) That local businesses be responsible for covering all other costs associated with the Temporary Outdoor Patio Program.