

May 21, 2025

To Chair and Members General Issues Committee:

I am writing as a concerned taxpayer. To provide New Vision United Church with a grant of \$900,000 to create a 1000-capacity venue for a music hall at this time is incomprehensible. The taxpaying citizens of Hamilton have an affordability crisis, and we need to address current issues.

### WHY YOU SHOULD NOT SUPPORT!

1. New Vision United Church does not pay taxes; would the not-for-profit Music Hall under the Music Alliance also not pay taxes?

2. The United Church of Canada has a Congregational Development Fund (CDF), which is intended to help congregations with larger capital needs while undertaking church building projects. The maximum loan granted from the Congregational Development Fund is 50% of the total financial cost of the project, to a maximum of \$500,000. Why would the City provide a grant when its organization requires loans to be paid back? Their loans are not for start-up projects but are meant to only top up at the end of a completed project. And, according to the Report, other communities, including Toronto, have not provided grants, but loans to such ventures

3. Based on the chart below:

- (a) What does the Revenue Line include?
- (b) How many Music Rentals?
- (c) What are other sources of Revenue?
- (d) What percentage of revenue is for the Community Use Plan for marginalized and racialized groups for cultural activities?
- (e) What is the documented history of past performance and achievements?
- (f). Have formal legal agreements with promoters and producers to secure successful venue operation been signed? (see page 16 - PED25142)

**2025, following receipt of the Grant), followed by the next three full operating years.**

### Category Construction

**Year (not a  
complete year)**

		<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$258,500</b>	<b>\$573,550</b>	<b>\$636,450</b>	<b>\$695,150</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$241,608</b>	<b>\$515,181</b>	<b>\$632,383</b>	<b>\$651,205</b>
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	<b>\$16,891</b>	<b>\$58,369</b>	<b>\$4,067</b>	<b>\$43,994</b>
<b>Cumulative Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$16,891</b>	<b>\$75,260</b>	<b>\$79,327</b>	<b>\$123,272</b>

4. Report PED25142 says that the estimate of the entire rehabilitation is \$4,666,000. The Report states New Vision United Church will not return to the City for additional funding. What are the financial plans to secure future funding for the restoration and rehabilitation?

To the City Council, do not support the request for a \$900,000 grant for New Vision United Church. The City should not be using taxpayer dollars to finance a private venture. The United Church of Canada is a multi-million dollar real estate and development corporation who have the assets to help its own! They currently have 22 projects on the go! And in our own back yard is St Giles!

Thank you  
Janice Brown  
Ward 2 Resident