

June 25th, 2025

General Issues Committee
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

To: Clerk
Re: Proposed changes to the recycling program within Hamilton's BIAs

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

On behalf of the eleven Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in Hamilton, we are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the potential changes to recycling support for businesses as a result of the provincial recycling program requirements.

Our BIAs represent a diverse array of small and medium-sized businesses, many of which are already facing significant economic challenges. The recent feedback we have received from our members is clear: if municipal recycling supports are withdrawn, most business owners will simply be unable to continue recycling due to the additional costs and logistical burdens. This is not a matter of unwillingness, but rather a reflection of the very real financial and day-to-day pressures they are currently facing.

We are deeply frustrated by the prospect of further financial burdens being placed on our businesses. The loss of recycling services would not only increase operational costs, but also undermine the sustainability goals that our city and our business communities have worked so hard to advance. For many businesses, especially those operating on slim margins, the privatization of recycling means that recycling will become cost-prohibitive or logistically unfeasible.

Beyond the economic impact, we are alarmed by the environmental consequences this policy change may bring. If businesses are forced to discontinue recycling, we risk a significant increase in waste being sent to landfill, undermining years of progress toward a greener, more sustainable Hamilton. This is a step backwards for our city's environmental commitments and for the health of our neighbourhoods. We are also extremely concerned about illegal dumping increasing in our areas due to this proposed change.

We urge the City of Hamilton and the General Issues Committee to advocate strongly for continued recycling support for businesses within BIAs. We ask that you work with the province-mandated bodies to ensure that our businesses are not left behind in the transition to a privatized system, and that recycling remains accessible and affordable for all. It is imperative that the City of Hamilton prioritize business improvement areas and continue recycling services to our members. Many businesses choose to operate in a BIA with the expectation that there are increased levels of services as they are paying an additional levy to be located within our

BIA boundaries. Not only would a change in recycling collection negatively impact the businesses, but it would also put additional pressures on the BIAs resources that we simply do not have, as we are still recovering from COVID-19 lockdowns and current economic changes.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and to work collaboratively toward a solution that supports both our business community and our shared environmental goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susie Braithwaite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Braithwaite".

Susie Braithwaite
Chair of BIA Sub-Committee