



City of Hamilton

Memorandum

To: Chair and Members
General Issues Committee

Date: April 15, 2026

Report No: PED26018(a)

Subject/Title: Ensuring Pedestrian Access at Jackson Street West and
MacNab Street South

Ward(s) Affected: Ward 2 / City Wide

Information

At its meeting on September 16, 2025, the Downtown Sub-Committee passed a motion directing staff to report back through a Recommendation Report on the following:

- (i) Enforcement mechanisms currently available under the Hamilton Streets By-law (86-077) to address sidewalk obstructions;
- (ii) Recommendations for an effective and practical approach to maintaining accessible sidewalks, including strategies to prevent repeated enforcement cycles while coordinating with outreach and support services; and
- (iii) Any resource or policy implications associated with implementing such an approach.

Background:

- Ongoing non-compliance with the Hamilton Streets By-law (86-077) continues to result in recurring obstructions within the pedestrian right-of-way. While compliance is typically achieved during enforcement attendance, obstructions frequently reoccur once staff leave the area.
- Staff presented Information Report PED26018 to the Downtown Sub-Committee on March 2, 2026, addressing the items outlined in the September 16, 2025, motion. The report was received by the Committee.
- Report PED26018 provided information related to items (i), (ii), and (iii), and indicated that a subsequent report would be brought forward to the General Issues Committee with recommendations, including direction to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, as well as a confidential appendix outlining anticipated costs associated with a proposed pilot program.
- The report was not brought forward to March 25, 2026, General Issues Committee, as staff elected to refine the operational approach to prioritize the use of existing resources.
- Enforcement of the Parks By-law (01-219) and Streets By-law (86-077) is currently supported by six Municipal Law Enforcement Officers.

Reasons for Revised Operational Approach:

- Staff have refocused operational efforts to identify efficiencies that support a more consistent enforcement presence in the area of Jackson Street West and MacNab Street South.

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- Licensing and By-law Services has redeployed members of the Coordinated Encampment Response Team (CERT) to provide proactive, daily presence and enforcement within the area. This approach is intended to maintain visibility, reinforce compliance expectations, and reduce the likelihood of recurring violations.
- This revised approach leverages existing resources and does not require additional funding.
- Through sustained presence, staff have developed working relationships with individuals in the area. Combined with staff experience in encampment response, this approach is expected to improve compliance outcomes compared to introducing new personnel unfamiliar with the context.

Early Implementation Outcomes:

- Beginning March 23, 2026, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, including members of the Coordinated Encampment Response Team, initiated proactive daily attendance at the intersection of Jackson Street West and MacNab Street South to address sidewalk obstructions.
- This consistent presence has improved pedestrian access and reduced the frequency of repeat violations and supports continued enforcement presence.

Next Steps:

- Beginning the week of April 13, 2026, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will provide a minimum of three proactive patrols per day in the identified area.

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- Staff will continue to coordinate enforcement and clean-up efforts with Hamilton Police Service and Public Works (Parks Section).
- This approach enables the remaining four Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to maintain enforcement within City parks, consistent with Council direction following the rescission of the Encampment Protocol in March 2025.
- Subject to sustained compliance in the area, the two assigned officers may be redeployed to support enforcement in other high-priority locations, including the York Boulevard corridor.
- Licensing and By-law Services will continue to monitor outcomes, adjust deployment as required, and prioritize city-wide encampment issues that pose elevated health and safety risks. This approach will not impact previously established proactive enforcement efforts within Ward 3 parks or within the 1 km radius of the Tiffany Barton Temporary Outdoor Shelter.
- Staff will also enhance coordination with Corporate Security to support enforcement operations, including risk identification, information sharing and coordinated responses where appropriate, with activities and outcomes tracked and monitored to inform ongoing operational adjustments.
- Staff will provide regular status updates to the Downtown Subcommittee and/or General Issues Committee on the implementation of these next steps, including changes in conditions, enforcement activity, emerging risks, and any required operational adjustments, including reporting back to the General Issues Committee in Q3 2026 with a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of the revised

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enforcement approach, impacts on broader encampment operations and any recommendations requiring Council direction.

Risks associated with the revised approach:

- Enforcement coverage is currently limited to weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., which may result in reoccurrence of violations outside of these hours.
- Allocating two officers to this area may result in slower response times to encampment-related concerns in City parks.
- Reduced response capacity in other locations may increase the likelihood of encampments becoming more established, potentially resulting in longer compliance timelines and increased clean-up requirements.
- Displacement of individuals from the identified area may lead to increased by-law violations in other locations.

Consultation

- Licensing and By-law Services (Municipal Law Enforcement Section)
- Licensing and By-law Services (Policy and Programs Section)
- Hamilton Police Services
- Public Works - Environmental Services (Parks Section)
- Public Works – Corporate Safety and Security
- Healthy and Safe Communities – Housing Services

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Appendices and Schedules Attached

Not Applicable

Prepared by:

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Submitted and Recommended by:

Dan Smith, Director, Licensing and By-law Services, Planning and Economic Development Department

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