



# Hamilton

**REPORT 11-001  
TASK FORCE ON CLEANLINESS AND SECURITY  
IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE**

**Thursday, September 15, 2011  
Council Chambers  
Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West**

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**Present:** Councillors J. Farr (Chair), C. Collins  
K. Drewitt (Vice Chair) S. Braithwaite, T. Mines, M. Platts,  
J. Hawker, M. Pocius

**Also Present:** L. Browett, Business Analyst, Urban Renewal  
E. Devries, Program Co-ordinator BIA's, Waterfront  
Development  
K. Barnett, Community Liaison Co-ordinator  
S. Rastin, Hamilton Police  
A. Grozelle, Legislative Assistant

**THE TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT 11-001 TO THE GENERAL ISSUES  
COMMITTEE AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Lighting Study Update (Item 5.1)**

- (a) That staff be directed to provide a detailed costing of lighting implementation in the Downtown area for the consideration of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core.
- (b) That the locations identified by the Task Force members during the August 8, 2011 Walkabout be forwarded to staff for consideration and inclusion in this report.

**2. Treble Hall Email (Item 7.1)**

That staff be directed to report back to the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core with further details on the methadone clinic located on John Street, across from Treble Hall.

**3. Buskering Update (Added Item 7.2)**

That Special Events staff be directed to consult with the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core respecting Buskering.

**4. Supercrawl Letter**

That the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core be authorized to send a letter to the organizers of the Supercrawl commending them on holding an outstanding event.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

**(b) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Clerk advised that staff were unable to attend to present for Item 5.1 Respecting Lighting Study Update, however requested that the item be left on the agenda in case there was any input from the Task Force members.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)**

**(i) May 30, 2011 (Item 3.1)**

The Minutes of the May 30, 2011 meeting were adopted as presented.

**(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)**

**(i) Delegation Request by Jenna Roberts respecting concerns around safety and crime (Item 4.1)**

The delegation request by Jenna Roberts respecting concerns around safety and crime was approved.

**(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 5)**

**(i) Lighting Study Update (no copy) (Item 5.1)**

Staff were unable to attend to provide a presentation to Committee members on this Item. Committee members did however discuss the Item. Highlights included but were not limited to the following.

- Councillor Collins indicated that there is currently no budget for lighting implementation
- Councillor Collins indicated that no detailed costings have been provided on this item
- There was some discussion by Task Force members on addressing the areas identified as having lighting issues during the walkabout
- There was some discussion on how the costing would go forward and if there would be a separate costing done of specific lighting issues raised by the Task Force

For disposition on this item refer to Item 1.

**(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)**

**(i) Downtown Walkabout Discussion (no copy) (Item 6.1)**

Vice-Chair Drewitt asked staff if they had any updates on the August 8<sup>th</sup> Walkabout prior to opening the matter up for general discussion. Staff addressed committee. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- K. Barnett indicated that their Municipal Law Enforcement had acted on a number of items identified during the walkabout
- Discussed the vacant buildings behind the International Business Improvement Area and have been added to the vacant building list
- Discussed the graffiti along the walkway and that staff have issued orders; however as always have been understanding about this as the orders are related victims of crimes
- Discussed the ongoing problem of dog feces at a certain location and that municipal law enforcement has ongoing investigation there now and will work with the owners to correct the problem
- Discussed the store called 'Boys Toys' is a bit of a concern; however outside of municipal law enforcement. Indicated that this may be more of a Public Works issue as it relates to a roadway
- Indicated that staff have addressed the concerns raised in the Bingo Hall
- There was some discussion by Committee members respecting the 'Boys Toys' store. Task Force members indicated that their issue was more related to the piling of material in the store which could pose a public health or fire issue

- Councillor Collins discussed the location of the former Century Theatre indicating that the area has for some time been covered with bricks and weeds and he would like to see municipal law enforcement step in
- Councillor Collins discussed ways of tracking the items raised by the Task Force which require action
  
- S. Braithwaite thanked staff for taking such a proactive approach on graffiti
- Staff indicated that the City is moving forward with a very challenging issue with graffiti; however remains dedicated to graffiti eradication.
  
- J. Hawker asked if they could receive a compilation of notes respecting the walkabout prior to the next meeting
- J. Hawker asked for details about police graffiti enforcement
- Inspector Rastin indicated graffiti arrests are up and he believes that there have been 78 charges laid this year; indicating that this is about a 10% increase
  
- M. Pocius asked if there was a certain demographic that perform graffiti
- Inspector Rastin indicated it is usually people aged 15-25 and is usually not gang or hate related
- K. Drewitt discussed that extensive postering has damaged the façade of a building. In one case she indicated that this was done through facebook campaign.
- Staff indicated that they were aware of the issue and have sent it onto Police but have not received an update
  
- S. Braithwaite indicated that they have taken pictures of all graffiti throughout the summer
- Inspector Rastin indicated that it is very important to report graffiti
- Staff discussed an incident that occurred when an area of the City adopted a park and acted when they saw individuals doing graffiti. This community engagement led to arrests
- Inspector Rastin indicated that many areas have started an adopt-a-box program where they go out and clean up postal boxes that are graffitied in their area
  
- J. Hawker asked if the cost of graffiti crimes can be passed onto the perpetrator
- Staff indicated that those charged with graffiti can be charged the cost; however diversion is more likely through the courts
- Staff discussed the diversion program used by the John Howard Society where people are sent to go paint over graffiti

- L. Browett discussed the issues pointed out by the Task Force while touring the McNab Street bus terminal
- Discussed the McNab Street bus terminal closing well before buses stop running
- Discussed that bus tickets are not sold at the terminal
  
- T. Mines indicated that there were new etchings placed across the site lines at the terminal and it could be a risk to pedestrian traffic
- Chair Farr discussed the graffiti found in the new McNab Street Terminal
- Chair Farr indicated that he and Vice-Chair Kathy Drewitt will continue to discuss this with staff, asking that the Committee Clerk forward the comments heard today to the Director of Transit.
  
- Councillor Collins asked about sending a letter to the building at the Northeast corner of King and James Street respecting the state of repair of their façade
- T. Mines indicated that the building's real-estate agent is currently sending out tenders for façade restoration
  
- Committee members requested that the Committee Clerk invite Glenn Norton to attend the next meeting to discuss the property on the Northeast corner of King and James Street and provide an overview of the program for increased grant opportunities for façade repairs prior to the Pan Am Games.
  
- J. Hawker discussed sidewalk repairs and the need for work in this respect
- Councillor Collins indicated that staff are preparing a budget to go forward in 2012 of around \$43 million. The Councillor indicated that this will begin to go forward on main streets and will focus on grinding down of sidewalks rather than the more costly option of outright replacement
- Discussed the additional area rating funds that are Ward funds which Councillors can dedicate toward necessary projects
  
- S. Braithwaite asked about a listing of issues of concerns resulting from the walk
- Staff indicated that they have sent those onto the particular departments for review and discussion
- Indicated that a lot of the pavement cuts were already on the previous work list however they have not gotten around to them as of yet

- Indicated that staff have done a quick walk through the area and are trying an experimental tree curbing with rubber matting on 15 trees
- S. Braithwaite asked if it would be of assistance to staff to be sent a list of priority items to be addressed
- Staff indicated that having a priority list would be helpful
  
- K. Drewitt asked staff what can be done within the budget and what matters need to be addressed be forward to the budget deliberation process
- K. Drewitt suggested that a list of items requiring budgetary support be compiled for the next meeting to allow for budgetary requests to be made if possible

**(ii) Review Terms of Reference (Item 6.2)**

There was no discussion on the Terms of Reference

**(g) OTHER / NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)**

**(i) Treble Hall email (Item 7.1)**

Terri Mines provided Task Force members with an overview. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Terri Mines discussed when Treble Hall was purchased by her company
- Discussed the letter sent by the neighbour across the street which outlines some of the issues with the methadone clinic
- Chair Farr suggested that the alley way next to Treble Hall could be purchased by the owners of the hall to prevent illicit behaviour in that area
- T. Mines indicated that she would like to see if they could hold a meeting with the businesses around the area
- Chair Farr discussed that there have been ongoing issues with how the practice is being operated and the impact on business and the surrounding area
  
- K. Drewitt indicated that she has been involved in many of the discussions on this issue
- Indicated that the owner of the property has indicated that he doesn't believe that there is a problem

- Discussed that pressure needs to be placed on the property owner to comply with the law with both the property owners and that the businesses along there need to advocate for changes
- T. Mines indicated that on June 9, 2011 there was an altercation between some of her company's workers and the clinic users. Indicated that the police response was terrific and they have increased their presence in the area
- Councillor Collins indicated that we need to get everyone together on this issue and discuss it as well as figure out what the Province's role is in renewing licensing, for medical clinics
- Discussed the need to discuss this with the General Manager of Community Services office to get more background on the process around these clinics
- Inspector Rastin indicated that they are working on the clinic and they are addressing enforcement issues
- Indicated that Glyn Wide in law enforcement has been looking toward proving that there is a negative impact on the area although it is licensed as a medical centre which is outside of municipal jurisdiction
- Inspector Rastin indicated that lighting in front of this clinic is at low levels and they would like to see this addressed
- T. Mines indicated that the issue is not the methadone clinic but the way it is operated.
- Methadone clinics that are conscious of their neighbours do not have the impact that this location has
- K. Drewitt indicated that an issue with the clinic is the amount of clients being treated and the physical layout of the building. Indicated that this building has a very small waiting room and the facility itself is not adequate for the services that they are trying to provide
- K. Drewitt discussed that there should be certain requirements for waiting rooms, etc based on how many patients they treat
- Chair Farr questioned how many patients one doctor can see in a day and how many prescriptions this location can safely issue in a responsible manner

Chair Farr indicated that this item would be added to the next agenda of the Task Force.

On a Motion the letter from Neil Paterson respecting issues around Treble Hall, was received.

For disposition on this item refer to Item 2.

**(ii) Busking (Added Item 7.2)**

S. Braithwaite indicated that she had a discussion with Alice Sabourin in Special Events respecting Busking. She indicated that staff are looking to move forward with a survey of Buskers. Discussed bringing staff to the Task Force to consult on this issue as it has been one of ongoing concern for some time.

For disposition on this item refer to Item 3.

**(iii) Gore Park water initiative (Added Item 7.3)**

K. Drewitt indicated that during the Heatwave, Public Health provided training to her staff for dealing with individuals in distress. Indicated that they provided metal water bottles; however there is no clean water supply in Gore Park Students; found a man in distress gave him a metal water canister and he proceeded to dip it into the fountain.

K. Drewitt indicated that this program should be stopped immediately and they should provide water bottles to those in distress rather than metal water bottles that require them to search for a source of clean water.

There was some discussion on water fountains in the downtown area as well as the discussion of adding washrooms in the downtown area.

**(iv) Police Update (Added item 7.4)**

- Inspector Rastin indicated that police have started a diversion program with 19 people who were interacting with police on almost a daily basis and have had success with 15 of the
- This program has been started with an EMS worker in order to help individuals research and find ways to address their particular individual issue
- Indicated that this is the first time in North America that police are referring people to a social agency like this
- EMS is actually paying for the paramedic to do this work; however there is a desire to add a social worker as well
- Discussed while the project is only in its first three weeks, it is showing promising preliminary results



- Councillor Collins asked if there were areas where there are increased calls for complaints and if these can be sent to the City for use in considering enforcement options
- Inspector Rastin indicated that they can provide all service call information; however they can not provide personal information
- Inspector Rastin indicated that you have to be careful in making a link however between locations and the activities occurring there
- Inspector Rastin indicated however that this approach has been helpful for the City dealing with issues raised at locations such as Billy Bob's and Show World
- Councillor Collins asked if this could be discussed further at a future meeting
- S. Ratsin thanked everyone for their work on Supercrawl, Country Music week.
- Inspector Rastin congratulated the organizers of the events and indicated that these were positive events for the downtown
- Indicated that the Mounted unit has been working Hess Villiage area along with the Action unit. There is still an issue of public urination in the location; last year they issued around \$35,000 in public urination tickets; this year they are already around \$30,000 even though they have installed Johnny-on-the-spots
- Used the proactive approach to Hess Villiage, ride checks are held at the start of the evening to inform bar goers of police vigilance
- Chair Farr indicated that he was impressed how the police operated and the way they moved from one event to another
- Indicated that out of the huge event they had very little negative response. The only issue raised to him was a garbage can that was too full.

For disposition on this item refer to Item 4.

There was some discussion on when the next meeting should be held. It was decided that the Task Force should meeting again in mid-October.

**(h) ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion (**Collins/Mines**), the meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Councillor J. Farr, Chair  
Task Force on Cleanliness  
and Security in the  
Downtown Core

Andy Grozelle  
Legislative Assistant  
September 15, 2011