



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITYWIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: June 25, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Ward Boundary Review (CL11004(b)) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Rose Caterini City Clerk Corporate Services	PREPARED BY: Tony Fallis Ext. 2753
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

At its meeting on April 25, 2012, Council received a petition to redistribute wards in Hamilton. The item was referred to the General Issues Committee for discussion, to allow citizens to address this matter.

Information:

On April 25, 2012 City Council received a petition asking Council to pass a by-law redividing the City of Hamilton's wards, so that the five most populated wards are more evenly distributed in population.

Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, if City Council receives a petition to redivide wards and does not pass a by-law in accordance with that petition within 90 days (in this case on or before July 24, 2012), any elector who signed may apply to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to have a hearing on the matter. Whether the petition is sufficient to trigger a full hearing on redividing the City of Hamilton's wards would be a preliminary issue to be decided by the OMB.

On February 6, 2012 the Governance Review Sub-Committee received Report CL11004(a), attached as Appendix "A", respecting a Ward Boundary Review. This report outlined a recommended timeline for a ward boundary review taking into consideration the potential for an OMB appeal. A conservative estimate of a thorough ward boundary review is determined to be approximately 2 years.

The process would involve a determination of a Terms of Reference which would outline the specifics of the ward review and deal with effective representation, natural boundaries, communities of interest, recognition of areas of growth and decline, recognition of population per geographic area, etc. There should also be a public consultation process that allows for input on proposals.

This review would also entail the hiring of a consultant to engage the public and to work with staff towards establishing options for consideration of Council for new ward boundaries.

City Council may wish to lay the groundwork for a ward boundary review such as: setting aside funds for the process; directing staff to prepare draft Terms of Reference; determining a date for the hiring of a consultant; and establishing a commencement date for the ward boundary review to begin.

Addendum: CL11004(a) for reference purposes