



Hamilton

FAIRNESS TO HAMILTON CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE

REPORT 12-002

Wednesday September 26, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Room 830,

Hamilton City Hall

Present: Councillor S. Merulla (Chair)
Councillors B. McHattie (Vice-Chair), J. Partridge
D. Adames, Tom Cooper, E. Myrie

**Absent with
Regrets:** T. Whitehead - Personal

**THE FAIRNESS TO HAMILTON CAMPAIGN PRESENTS REPORT 12-002 AND
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Resignation of Mia Wilkinson and the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative from
the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-committee (Item 5.1)**

That the resignation of the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative's seat on the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign be received and the Terms of Reference be amended accordingly.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda:

- (i) That item 4.1 on the agenda be removed as it was listed on the agenda in error.

The agenda of the September 26, 2012 meeting was approved as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) April 30, 2012 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of April 30, 2012 were approved as presented.

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Review of Purpose and Mandate of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-committee (Motion for review passed at Meeting of April 30, 2012) (Item 5.2)

On a Motion no further changes were made in the Purpose or Mandate of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-committee.

(ii) Council Follow-up Respecting Item 4 of Emergency and Community Services Committee Report 12-007 (Item 5.3)

Chair Merulla discussed the importance of moving forward with a non-partisan approach which would assist the City of Hamilton.

Chris Murray, City Manager, discussed expressing the positive work and efforts done in the City of Hamilton to provincial and federal governments. He outlined the need to tell Hamilton's story and provide information on what is being done right and what supports we need to create further success. Mr. Murray discussed the approach of meeting with local MP's and MPP's to help create a long term agreement.

Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager of Community Services, discussed the shortfalls on Homelessness and Discretionary Benefit funding. She indicated that a report will be coming forward on this issue in October which will give a clear idea of the crisis in funding facing the municipality.

Tom Cooper indicated that he is very concerned about the impacts of the pulled funding on women and children fleeing from violence. He Discussed the abandonment of a Provincial wide poverty strategy.

David Adames indicated his support for telling Hamilton's story. He discussed the need to meet with MPs' and MPPs' and the importance of also working on a short term solution to the immediate problems that face social service funding.

Councillor McHattie discussed the government relations strategy and need to use the expertise and talent available here to the get the best interest of Hamilton brought forward. He discussed getting a special agreement for Hamilton rather than being covered by blanket agreements that do not fit the specific needs of the communities.

There was some discussion amongst Committee members on needing to provide some definitive numbers and information in support of Hamilton's position on cost downloading.

Councillor Merulla outlined the following strategic approach leading towards Hamilton day; The Chair of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign along with the Mayor and City Manager will meet with local MP's and MPP's to tell Hamilton's story and build support. Updates on these meetings will be shared with Councillors on a one on one basis. In October staff will come forward with short term solutions to address the funding shortfalls. A long term non-partisan solution will be sought from the provincial and federal governments with the hope that such an agreement will be tailored for the unique pressures and needs of Hamilton.

The update respecting Council Follow-up Respecting Item 4 of Emergency and Community Services Committee Report 12-007, was received.

(e) OTHER BUSINESS/ GENERAL INFORMATION (Item 6)

(i) Light Rail Transit Issue (Added Item 6.1)

Councillor McHattie discussed the \$9 million dollars already committed to the LRT (\$4 million of which is from the City). He discussed the next step of moving forward to create a funding plan and discussed his concerns that the province may not see the LRT in Hamilton as a priority. He discussed the need to get a special agreement for Hamilton on this issue.

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 7)

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Councillor S. Merulla
Chair, Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-
committee

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk