

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Committee Date: May 19, 2015

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. FARR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Re: Hess Village Paid Duty Policing Pilot

Whereas, from an Economic Development perspective, Hess Village, Hamilton's only defined entertainment district, once employed approximately 500, now employs approximately 250 and the average number of patron's during the patio season has decreased by approximately 65 percent; and

Whereas, Hess Village once accommodated 17 establishments and now only 12 establishments exist; and

Whereas, the turnover of establishments in the last 10 years is approximately 20 that have come and gone resulting in an unpredictable business environment; and

Whereas, in 2010, the City of Hamilton Council amended Schedule 21 of By-law 07-170 by increasing the total number of Paid Duty officers during the patio season to a maximum of 10 officers for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights; and

Whereas, the owners and operators of existing establishments are united in asserting that the current cost of Paid Duty Policing cannot be absorbed with the current level of business and puts an unsustainable financial pressure on business; and

Whereas, the average cost of Paid Duty Policing over the last four years is approximately \$115,000 per year; and

Whereas, there are no other examples of this level of private policing at any other Entertainment District in the country; and

Whereas, other Entertainment Districts in the country being much larger in size and scope rely on regular duty, levy funded policing; and

Whereas, it is clear that the decline in over-all attendance by patrons and number of business establishments in Hamilton's only Entertainment District has a direct impact on Tourism, Employment Image and Economic Development and that the

unsustainable cost of policing to businesses have directly resulted in an inability to market and promote; and

Whereas, it is estimated the \$40,000 a year in staff time is sent on the Paid Duty Policing issue;

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That a four year Hess Village Paid Duty Proportional Fund Sharing Pilot be established at the inception of the 2015 paid duty patio season (commencing the Victoria Day weekend) to cover 65 percent of the cost of Paid Duty Policing through the Tax Stabilization Reserve #110046 and that the City of Hamilton cover all administrative costs currently estimated at 15 percent of the total Paid Duty bill;
- (b) That all businesses in addition to bars and restaurants within Hess Village who chose to remain open during the nightly Paid Duty program shift be included in the By-law to pay into the program based on a percentage devised by the establishment interior / exterior capacity as consistent with the current formula within the By-law and for bars and restaurants;
- (c) That Schedule 21 of the Business Licensing By-law be amended to include all of the businesses who choose to remain open and to require that they pay 35% of the Paid Duty Policing cost;
- (d) That staff from Urban Renewal assist business owners with the establishment of a BIA for Hess Village and measure results of the pilot annually and report back to the Planning Committee on its effectiveness.