THE TASK FORCE ON CLEANLINESS AND SECURITY IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE PRESENTS REPORT 10-003 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **Review of Aerial Encroachment permit application process**

That Public Works be directed to review the permit application process for Aerial Encroachments with the intent of introducing a formalized process to help eliminate unnecessary delays.
2. Lighting Study, In-depth Review of the Consultants Report – Presentation by Don McLean/ Glen O’Connor (Item 6.2)

(a) That staff be directed to report to the Public Works Committee with their recommendations in respect to the Lighting Study;

(b) That the Task Force’s comments on the consultants recommendations form part of this staff report;

(c) That staff report back to the Task Force for Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core with a Capital Implementation Plan for Lighting that gives options based on different levels of implementation.

3. Joint proposal from the Downtown BIA and the International Village BIA in regards to the Downtown Ambassador Program 2010 (Added Item 6.5)

That Councillor Bratina be authorized to seek funding in the amount of $4,647.00 for the Downtown Ambassador Program as is described in the letter submitted jointly from the Downtown Hamilton BIA and the International Village BIA attached hereto as Appendix ‘A’ to Report 10-003.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Councillor Bratina.

(b) Changes to the Agenda (Item 2)

The Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda,

That added a joint proposal from the Downtown BIA and the International Village BIA in regards to the Downtown Ambassador Program 2010 be added as Item 6.5

Chair Bratina also advised that out of consideration for staff in attendance that Item 6.3 be moved up in the Agenda to follow Item 6.1.

On a Motion, the agenda was approved as amended.

(c) Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

There were none.
(d) Minutes of Previous Meetings (Item 4)

The minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2010 were approved as presented.

(e) PRESENTATIONS

none

(f) Updates from Last Meeting/Other Business

(i) Discussion on Buskers/Street Entertainment Re: Task Forces
Invitation to Anna Bradford (no copy) (6.1)

Anna Bradford updated the Task Force on the progress of her work on Buskers and discussed the past star program for buskers.

Staff described how they are looking into other municipalities best practices in terms of busking. Staff asked Task Force members to step forward to be interviewed on their views on Busking so that these viewpoints could be included as they move forward.

Scott Rastin, Kathy Drewitt, Susan Braithwaite, Al Dore, Ron Marini, and Bob Bratina stepped forward to be interviewed by staff about busking.

Task Force members suggested that staff look at James Street North as an individual area and consider setting special rules on Busking there.

Chair Bratina suggested that a ‘Speakers Corner’ area may be set up for people who aren’t talented musicians and are more involved in panhandling.

Staff suggested that the Buskers may be one issue of many that could be addressed by developing a strategy around Downtown animation that would strive to revitalize the area.

Chair Bratina suggested doing theme based days in for of busking. He also added that what is really needed though is a overall strategy that would make the downtown area a destination.

Staff indicated that to create such a plan would require funding.

The Task Force moved by motion that staff report back with a plan to develop a Downtown Animation Strategy with a recommendation to be brought forward to Committee with the purpose of seeking funding for the project under the 2011 budget.
Bryan Shynal provided a PowerPoint Presentation to the Committee. Staff discussed service level and frequencies for Litter Collection. Staff indicated that they are on target with their goals for the 2010 year.

The Task Force asked questions about how concrete is poured around the base of a tree indicating that it could be harmful to the health of the tree. Staff indicated that they have not moved forward with a standard design around tree’s as of yet.

Staff indicated that they have installed new lights in all downtown light standards. They have also worked to remove all the graffiti from all the light standards. They plan to have around 330 light standards repainted.

Staff discussed the problem of etched graffiti on glass. Committee members indicated that they are aware of a company that does repair etched glass in the Hamilton area. Chair Bratina suggested placing something over the glass akin to what is currently on the mail boxes.

Staff indicated that they are investigating how to get the street furniture providers to clean graffiti off benches on a quicker basis.

Chair Bratina asked about the gum on the sidewalks. Staff informed the Committee that the street sweeper is quite effective and is on a twice a year cycle.

Staff indicated that they are looking to install more bike standards. Committee members indicated that they thought that funding had been made available to install more bike racks. Staff responded that they believe funding is still available.

Chair Bratina pointed out that there are no bike racks at City Hall.

Staff summarized the new initiatives of the year indicating that they have created a new supervisor position, taken over sidewalk power washing and other initiatives such as their community contact centre.

The Task Force questioned where BIA’s should take issues of concern. Staff indicated that they should contact the Community Contact Centre’s. Committee members indicated that there is also the new online complaint forms for these matters that goes to the.

Chair Bratina, indicated that he would like a list of who does what. Bratina also discussed that there should be a gathering once a year to get everybody on the same page and encourage team work when working towards the similar goal of improving that area.
Staff indicated that they were currently working on such a list and would be distributing it.

Task Force members indicated some skepticism about the amount of power washing and the scheduling of it. One member indicated that there was more power washing being done in their area last year when the work was being done by a contractor.

Staff suggested that they do a walk about with the Task Force to identify what areas are higher priorities.

Task Force members indicated that they need to make and effort spray water away from the store windows. Staff suggested that they would work on providing a schedule to make people aware of when they are coming to the area.

Chair Bratina asked whether or not it was illegal to spit on the streets. To which Inspector Rastin indicated the first step in combating this would be public information.

The Task Force complimented that City on the new recycling containers and asked if they are replacing all of them in the downtown core. Staff responded that they would be.

John Hawker indicated that he is not happy with the amount of cigarette butts being picked up and that they Cleanliness Liaison Committee will be doing an audit on an area this summer and they will provide the results to staff.

Chair Bratina thanked Brian Shynal for his presentation.

The Task Force moved to receive the presentation from Brian Shynal.

(iii) Lighting Study, In-depth Review of the Consultants Report – Presentation by Don McLean/ Glen O’Connor (Item 6.2)

The Consultant’s Don McLean of DMD & Associates and Glen O’Connor of G. O’Connor Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The presentation indicated that much of the lighting is focused on road ways and that they would recommend that it also have a focus on pedestrian needs.

Don McLean suggested that on wider roads the City should likely have a mixture of overhead and pedestrian lighting options. He pointed out that it is good that the City is considering LED lighting as they expect grants will be made available for retrofits in the future.
Consultant Glen O’Connor suggested that when picking a lighting system that you should first look at the need for the light and then consider the actual design and look of the light.

The consultants suggested that the City look at LED lights because they are more cost effective, even though there has yet to be a cost recovery for retrofitting with LED lights. They also indicated that the quality of the white lighting source is much superior and can even improve safety.

The Task Force inquired about lighting at the pedestrian level, raising concerns about over-lighting and if this would impact security cameras. Staff indicated that they have looked into this and would be looking to address such issues in the project's design stage.

The Task Force asked if there was a projected cost of maintenance included in the overall plan. The Consultants indicated that there will be an additional cost for more poles and retrofit however less energy will be used. They indicated as well that with LED lights being installed they would need to be changed less frequently.

The Consultant recommended to not light alleyways unless they are a route of access or egress. They look to property owners to provide lighting for their businesses preferably motion censors. This is a recommendation that was reached through consultation with police.

Chair Bratina asked that they would evaluate each case individually. Staff indicated that this is so.

The Task Force suggested that they reword the recommendation brought forward by the consultants just for clarification. Staff indicated that Public Works will consult with Hamilton Police when they receive a request for an alleyway lighting.

Staff were directed to revise the Consultants recommendation to indicate. That for any Downtown alleyway lighting to be approved for installation by it should first be endorsed by the governing BIA Management Board as well as the Hamilton Police Service.

Next the Consultants provided their recommendations for lighting in Parks. Chair Bratina took issue with the recommendation that lighting in Beasley Park be removed. The consultant indicated that these are issues that may need to be grandfathered in to allow for lighting where it previously existed.

Other Task Force members indicated that they had concerns the wording of the recommendation and that it should be rewritten for clarification. Some Task Force members also pointed out that they felt lighting would be appropriate in all parks in the Downtown area even ones yet to be
constructed. These members indicated that they felt that to not have lighting in these parks would encourage drug use.

The Consultants indicated they are recommending increased lighting for municipal parking lots and suggest that they encourage private lots to increase lighting.

Issues were raised by the Task Force around the difficulties encountered with getting a permit for Aerial Encroachments.

The Task Force provided their recommendations as shown above in Items 1 and 2.

The Task Force moved to receive the report and presentation of the consultants.

(iv) **Hamilton Police Services Update (Item 6.4)**

Inspector Scott Rastin indicated that the Downtown Police Action team initiative has been met with a huge level of success. He indicated that this is an initiative that the Chief is committed to continuing.

Police also have an ACTION website and have been giving out cards and asking people to go online to provide feedback.

Inspector Rastin talked about getting new reflective vests that read ACTION to help with visibility and that Police will also be getting yellow jackets.

The inspector also informed the Task Force that Police plan to go on a littering campaign and will target those that throw cigarette butts on the ground.

The Task Force moved by motion that the Clean City Liaison Committee be requested to work with the Police to help inform the Community in advance of their upcoming Anti-littering campaign.

Inspector Rastin provided the Task Force with an update on the police horses indicating that have begun to come to the downtown area. The Inspector added that the horses will soon be venturing into the Hess Village. The inspector indicated that Police are in the early stages in discussing with the City to have stables for the horses at Dundurn Park.

The Inspector indicated that they are trying to get a traffic officer at King and James.
(v) Joint proposal from the Downtown BIA and the International Village BIA in regards to the Downtown Ambassador Program 2010

Kathy Drewitt spoke to the two Downtown area BIA’s commitment to running the Downtown Ambassador Program in some form in 2010. She indicated that they restarted the program on July 5, 2010 with eight students and have secured enough funding to run it until August 23.

Drewitt indicated that they were seeking funds to run the program from August 23 until September 2 in the amount of $4,647.00.

The Task force received the letter submitted by the two Downtown area BIA’s and provided their recommendation as is shown above in Item 3.

(g) Other Business

The Task Force moved by motion that staff be directed to provide the Task Force with an update on the progress of the McNab Street bus terminal and that Gary Moore be invited to the next meeting of the Task Force to provide this update.

(h) Adjournment

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Councillor Bob Bratina, Chair

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
July 9, 2010