April 9, 2010

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
c/o 77 James St. N.
Hamilton, L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

We implore you to rethink the City of Hamilton’s plan to install metered parking in downtown Stoney Creek. We have received numerous requests and complaints from our Stoney Creek Chamber members in this area voicing their concerns and displeasure with having parking meters installed only in this area of Stoney Creek. A number of businesses have already said they will have to move from downtown Stoney Creek if the parking meters are installed. The most important problems with paid parking in downtown Stoney Creek are the following:

1) There are no parking areas close enough where employees/volunteers for businesses in downtown Stoney Creek will be able to park without paying for parking on an hourly basis. The Stoney Creek BIA estimates that employees will have to pay more than $160 per month for parking. Businesses will also suffer lost time due to employees having to pay the meters every hour or two. As well businesses would have to pay additional costs for employee parking to be competitive attracting good employees whereas the rest of Stoney Creek businesses would not have this cost.

2) Customers will now have to pay for parking when in the majority of other areas in Stoney Creek parking is free.

Both of these problems will create an unfair disadvantage for businesses in downtown Stoney Creek to attract good employees at similar wage levels to other businesses in Stoney Creek and to attract customers. Businesses could reimburse people for this parking but this is an expense that would not have to incurred elsewhere in the Stoney Creek / East Hamilton area.

Downtown Stoney Creek is part of the history and heritage of the Stoney Creek community and Hamilton area. If these parking meters are allowed to be installed without coming up with a solution for the above problems the businesses in downtown Stoney Creek will suffer, eventually move and the historical value of downtown Stoney Creek will be lost.

Clerks
We believe parking meters are contrary to supporting business in our city and will provide a short term revenue solution but cause unfortunate long term effects on the Community. Please do not ruin the beautiful heritage value of downtown Stoney Creek by installing numerous parking meters and deterring long time businesses from this area.

We propose the following possible solutions that should appease both the business community in downtown Stoney Creek and the City of Hamilton:

1) Do not install parking meters in downtown Stoney Creek;
2) Provide employees with more affordable & more efficient monthly parking passes;
3) Build another lot in the area that will be available for employees to park;
4) Allow employees to park on the surrounding side streets with passes.

I trust you will look into our concerns and implement satisfactory alternative ideas to rectify these problems.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours truly,
The Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce

[Signature]
Brad Perco, C.A.
President

cc. Mr. Brad Clark
cc. Ms. Maria Pearson
cc. Mr. Dave Mitchell
cc. Mr. Ed Strecker