Revised
MINUTES: Advisory Committee on Immigrants & Refugees
Thursday, January 12, 2006 – 6:50 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main St. West, Room 219

Present: Chrisroy Garwood, Roo Alvi, Ken Huang, Rebecca Yanyan Xu,
Gurpreet Dipak

Also Present: Ron Marini – Economic Development
Maxine Carter – Customer Service, Access & Equity Division
Carol Hill – PH & CS
Judy Lee-Wu – CIC
Sandra Lemus, Maria Contrevas

Regrets: Denise Doyle, Councillor Phil Bruckler, Carolann Fernandes, Mel
Madamba-Wakeham, Rehana Khanam, Kevin Beattie

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
Rebecca called members to remind about meeting. Welcomed all.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(Huang/Garwood)
That the agenda be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from December 8, 2005

(Alvi/Dipak)
The minutes from the December 8, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee on
Immigrants & Refugees be approved as amended. CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Membership
2 resignations received – Basma Daoud and Mohamad Husam.

(Huang/Garwood)
That the number of vacant positions on the Advisory Committee on Immigrants &
Refugees be increased to 7 from 5. CARRIED.
6 BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 Downtown Renewal Presentation – Ron Marini, Director, Downtown Renewal
Ron Marini made a presentation of City of Hamilton’s downtown Renewal Plan. Planning Boundary Area is Queen Street to Cannon Street to Wellington Street to Hunter Street and back to Queen Street. The Web link Downtown Renewal Incentives to be sent to all participants. http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/ProjectsInitiatives/DowntownRenewal/Incentive Programs – 25% equity-investor; 55% bank loan; 20% interest free loan from CoH

Q. How could I&R have direct input into the downtown Renewal Program.
A. The City carried out consultations already to develop the plan. My job is to implement. If this committee wants to have input such as, ideas of how to implement call me & let’s work together.

6.2 Government Assisted Refugee Issues
Carolann, Gurpreet, Roo and Maxine to work with Public Health staff – Lyne Gagne-Renwick to develop Hamilton’s position on I&R issues. The final document will be sent to Citizenship and Immigration.

6.3 Workplan – Actions and Priorities
Committee will discuss at next month’s meeting their thoughts and recommendations with respect to the economic development strategy/business development plan & downtown renewal for Hamilton. See workplan (Item 6 – Chrisroy & Ken). Members felt that the educational aspect of the economic development program is missing.

Other cities promote and include immigrants in their economic development plan. This makes good business sense. The committee felt that it is very important and necessary to attract small businesses to Hamilton and to create jobs. They felt that there is too much red tape and bureaucracy – for example in the licence & permits process.

Chrisroy & Rebecca will send their personal comments to be included in the minutes.

6.4 Workplace Education & Learning Conference –
• Maxine presented a summary of the conference for the committee’s information.
• Career Bridge to be launching in Hamilton and the Golden Horseshoe region in the very near future.

7 Chinese New Year – January 27/28, 2006

8 ADJOURNMENT