SUBJECT: Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations Resulting from School Closures and Boundary Changes (PED06410) (Wards 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the revised list of school crossing guard locations resulting from the school closures and boundary changes in Wards 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, and 13 attached hereto as Appendix “A” to Report PED06410 be approved.

(b) That staff be authorized and directed to consult with the affected Ward Councillors and to use delegated authority for assigning/removing school crossing guards prior to Council approval for the school closure/boundary changes proposed by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board for the 2006/2007 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of a comprehensive review in order to ensure safe crossings on public highways for school aged children, it was necessary to use staff’s delegated authority respecting the assignment/removal of school crossing guards in emergency situations, and to have new guards in place during the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year in areas where schools were closed or boundaries were adjusted. This comprehensive review identified the need to remove three crossing guard locations, two lunch hour crossings, and the temporary suspension of two locations due to a school renovation/closure. In addition, it
was necessary to use delegated authority to assign school crossing guards at four new locations. Staff consulted with all of the affected Ward Councillors prior to making these changes to the school crossing guard program, and have been monitoring these new locations since being implemented.

**BACKGROUND:**

As a result of school closures and boundary changes in Wards 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, and 13 initiated by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board effective at the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year, a comprehensive review of all of the school crossing guard locations in the affected Wards was undertaken. The purpose of this review was to assess the viability of each school crossing location in the affected Wards with respect to changes in child walking patterns, and to ensure that school crossing guards are appropriately located to ensure safe child crossings of public highways.

Appendix “A” to this report contains a list of the changes to school crossing guard locations in Wards 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, and 13 as of September 21, 2006. Staff has been monitoring these additions and deletions since the beginning of the school year and is satisfied that the revised locations adequately service the current child walking patterns.

Some further changes are still being reviewed by staff, and it may be necessary to send a second report respecting this matter to Committee early in 2007. However, staff felt that it would be prudent to at least receive approval of the current Council and to not over-extend the Manager’s delegated authority for emergency school crossing guard procedures.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Prior to a school crossing location being approved, staff undertakes a comprehensive review to determine walking and traffic patterns. In the event that there are no regular gaps in traffic or unsafe crossing conditions exist, a school crossing guard may be assigned to a location to provide safe crossing opportunities for children.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Failure to relocate school crossing guards in accordance with the school closure/boundary changes would result in an ineffective school crossing program and would place the safety of elementary school children crossing public highways in jeopardy at many locations.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The net result is an increased annual expenditure in the order of $500 which can be absorbed in the current budget.
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

Staff has delegated authority to assign school crossing guards under emergency circumstances.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Extensive consultation took place with staff of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth District Catholic School Board including various elementary officials and Parent Councils. Staff consulted with each Ward Councillor in the affected Wards (3, 4, 5, 10, 12, and 13) prior to making any changes to the school crossing locations in their Wards.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.
An effective school crossing guard program directly contributes to the health and well being of several thousand children crossing public highways each weekday.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Human health and safety are protected.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes  ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes  ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☑ Yes  ☐ No

:WY
Attach. (1)
### Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations Resulting from School Closures/Boundary Changes for the 2006-2007 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Location Added</th>
<th>Location Removed</th>
<th>Location Realigned</th>
<th>Location Suspended</th>
<th>Lunch Crossing Removed</th>
<th>Consulted With Councillor’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3    | Barton & Sanford  
     Barton & Sherman | Lottridge & Rosemont |                    |                    |                        | Yes                              |
| 4    | Barton & Weir (moved west)  
     Brunswick & Barton  
     Brunswick & Melvin (until school reopens estimated date Dec 2006) |                    |                    | Brunswick & Barton  
     Brunswick & Melvin (until school reopens estimated date Dec 2006) |                        | Yes                              |
| 5    | Greenhill & Mt. Albion (2nd guard)  
     Greenhill & Quigley  
     Quigley & Veevers |                    |                    |                    |                        | Yes                              |
| 10   |                    |                    |                    |                    | Grays & Roxborough       | Yes                              |
| 12   | Bridgeport & Kitty Murray |                    |                    |                    |                        | Yes                              |
| 13   |                    |                    |                    |                    | Melville & Sydenham      | Yes                              |