**To:** Chair and Members  
Emergency and Community Services Committee

**From:** Jack McFarland, Chair  
Hamilton Veterans Committee

**Date:** November 3, 2009

**Re:** Veterans Parking in the City of Hamilton (HVC 10-001) (City Wide)

**Recommendation:**

(a) That any Canadian or Allied Member of the Armed Forces, who have, or are serving, and who are also current residents of the City of Hamilton, be eligible for free parking in municipally operated parking lots and meters;

(b) That the Veteran must be in the vehicle at the time of use. If not, the user is subject to fine;

(c) That upon the death of the Veteran, the permit must be returned to the issuing organization.

**Background:**

The Hamilton Veterans' Committee advises Council on all matters affecting the Veterans of the City of Hamilton and acts as a liaison between the City and its Veterans.

Hamilton City Council on 13 May 2009 approved Committee of the Whole Report 09-014 including Report PED06157(b) Licence plates for Veterans who served in World War II or in Korean War in which Recommendation (a) states:

“That staff be authorized and directed to develop, implement and administer an enhanced parking exemption program respecting Ontario veteran license plate holders residing in Hamilton who honourably served in World War II or in Korea during the Korean War as a member of the
In consultation with the many Veterans organizations in the City of Hamilton the Hamilton Veterans’ Committee has determined the City’s Veterans want the parking exemption to include all those Canadian or Allied Members of the Armed Forces, who have, or are serving, and who are also current residents of the City of Hamilton.

Information:

The parking exemption program began in 2005 which had been designated the Year of the Veteran and included anyone displaying a valid Ontario veteran license plate. The program was to end on December 31, 2005. The program quietly continued for the next two years. In October of 2007 the debate about continuing the program was brought to the forefront as a number of municipalities across the country were finding the costs of honouring our Veterans in this way were prohibitive and the privilege of the parking exemption was being abused. The Hamilton Veterans’ Committee understands these concerns; however they feel with appropriate controls i.e. Special permits, these concerns will be alleviated to some extent.