November 23, 2006

His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger
and all Members of City Council
City of Hamilton
City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Sirs:

Re: Support for Closed Circuit Television Cameras in Hamilton

Please be advised that the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, the oldest, largest and most broadly based business organization extent within the City of Hamilton strongly supports the continuation and expansion of the Closed Circuit Television Program in Hamilton, as per the recent review of this program conducted by the CCTV Task Force of the Hamilton Police Services Board.

A copy of the recent policy position approved by the Chamber’s Executive Committee on our Board’s behalf is attached for further reference.

If you require any further information, please refer them to our Chief Executive Officer, John Dolbec at j.dolbec@hamiltonchamber.on.ca or (905) 522-1151 ex. #229.

Sincerely,

Len Falco
President

CC: All Directors, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (including Chairs of our Ancaster & Dundas Division’s, Ed Fothergill & all members of our Business Development Committee & Police Chief Brian Mullan.)
POLICY RECOMMENDATION

DATE: November 8, 2006

TITLE/SUBJECT: Support for Closed Circuit Television Cameras in Hamilton

COMMITTEE: Business Development

ACTION REQUIRED:

Letter to be sent to Mayor and Members of City Council, with c.c. to Chief Brian Mullan, Hamilton Police Services

BACKGROUND OF ISSUE:

After 2 years of study, a test model of 5 cameras in Downtown Hamilton and a trial time period of 2 more years with a community based evaluation task force monitoring the results of the program, the Hamilton Police Services Board are reviewing the status of the CCTV program for Hamilton with a view to recommending the continuation and expansion of the program. The CCTV Task Force reviewed the program and the results and recommended that the program should be supported as one of the tools of policing that should be expanded in Hamilton. The results have been a positive experience for Downtown. Crime stats in all areas have decreased and more areas are calling for the installation of cameras to protect our citizens.

The Hamilton Police Services Board have met earlier this month and are recommending to council that the CCTV program be continued and expanded and will be seeking council’s approval to do so early in the new year as they go through budget deliberations. The cost estimate is approx. $15,000 per unit and does not include the cost of monitoring which has yet to be determined.

Other cities in Ontario indeed in North America and Great Britain have implemented the CCTV program including Sudbury, Ottawa and Windsor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce support the continuation and expansion of the CCTV program in Hamilton
Say cheese...

City eyes more closed-circuit cameras

BY DANIEL NOLAN

Hamilton will likely get more police surveillance cameras.

The number and location of additional cameras will be examined by police Chief Brian Mullan, who will make recommendations to the police services board within the next four months. City council must also agree.

Cost of the closed-circuit cameras, which are already in the downtown core, are $15,000 per unit.

The decision to acquire more cameras was made yesterday by the board after it received a glowing report from a citizens' committee on what it termed a resounding success from having the five cameras in the downtown core.

According to the Closed Circuit Television Camera Steering Committee, the cameras during a two-year pilot program led to 24 criminal arrests, and 13 drug busts and the location of four missing persons and six emotionally disturbed persons.

The committee also said the cameras led to a reduction in such crimes as robbery (29 per cent), assault (25 per cent), break-and-enter (20 per cent) and stolen autos (57 per cent). It compared statistics with the two-year period before cameras were installed along King Street at James, John, Catharine, Walnut and Ferguson.

Board members Bernie Morelli and Tom Jackson said the cameras helped the downtown core overcome an image problem. Jackson would like to see surveillance cameras placed in the Concession Street business area and said BIA members have expressed support.

Mullan, a big supporter of the cameras, said he will look at several areas which have had crime problems, including James Street North, which saw a brazen shooting in September.

"An expansion such as this may be gradual (or phased). I'd like to have as many cameras as I could possibly get, but the bottom line is the purse is limited."

Mayor Larry Di Ianni and his main rival, Fred Eisenberger, both want 20 more surveillance cameras downtown.

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