To: Chair and Members
Emergency & Community Services Committee

From: Joe-Anne Priel
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Re: Temporary Closure of Children's Museum for Exhibit Change (ECS08008) (Ward 3)

Council Direction:

Not applicable.

Information:

Every three to four years, The Hamilton Children's Museum closes for about two months to change exhibits. Current exhibits, which opened in 2004, will close at the end of 2007.

Installation of new exhibits will begin on January 23rd and will be open to the public on March 5, 2008. The exhibits include “From the Ground Up” which focuses on archaeology, geology, and palaeontology. The second exhibit “Kitchen Works” is a hands-on display, which allows children to experience kitchen duties and social experiences that happen in the heart of a household. A series of educational and fun programs and special events will support the exhibits.

The museum will need to close its doors to the public and schools for safety concerns until the exhibit change is complete. The Sunshine Room, which does not contain exhibits, will remain open on Wednesdays for pre-registered programs such as Wednesday Wigglers. The Sunshine Room will also remain open for private rentals.

Closing the museum for six weeks will affect daily and school admissions. However, after an exhibit change there is a marked increase in attendance which makes up for any lost revenue during closure.

The closure will be communicated through the City’s web site and Public Service Announcements.
This closure will not affect staffing hours or wages. Staff of the museum will carry out the exhibit installation and develop support programs.

Joe-Anne Priel
General Manager,
Community Services Department