From: John and Harriet Hamilton

Sent: May 25, 2011 8:43 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Johnson, Brenda
Subject: Fw: Fw: Changes to Glanbrook Animal Control

Your Worship, City Councillors: [Att City Clerk] To be added to May 25th (today) council meeting agenda

As a citizen of Hamilton, I read with genuine concern, the recent reports that city council is in favour of disbanding Glanbrook Animal Services in order to save $75,000.00 annually.

I have read an account on Councilor Johnson's internet page that through recent restructuring in this dept and reorganization that staff members (Hamilton Animal Control) FELT that they were now able to provide the service to the Glanbrook community, using existing resources which would generate $75,000.00 savings to their budget.

It is very timely to realize that the City of Toronto found it very necessary to contract out trash collection west of Yonge Street. City Hall claims the move will save eight million dollars a year but 300 unionized jobs would be lost.

Let us not lose sight of the process of contracting out by governments, at all levels, if one is to be serious about fiscal responsibility.

It is important to state that there are many hard working public service employees. however I am addressing fiscal responsibility as you are; unfortunately we are both discussing business, money that is or the lack of it, not the personal livelihood of human beings..

I am suggesting there are issues that should definitely be addressed

I am requesting that you answer the following questions and examine your answers very carefully.

-What is the average salary of a City of Hamilton Animal Control Officer?

Do the City of Hamilton Control officers receive overtime pay and at what rate?

Do the City of Hamilton Control Officers receive statutory holiday pay and /or time off in lieu?

Do the City of Hamilton Control Officers receive health benefits?

Do the City of Hamilton Animal Control Officers have a pension plan?
If the City of Hamilton Animal Control Officers do have dental, medical, and other associated benefits along with a pension plan, does the City of Hamilton pay the benefits and contribute to the pension plan?

Do the City of Hamilton Animal Control Officers have a sick time plan?

When a city animal control employee is ill, is another employee called in at time and a half?

Is a city owned motor vehicle provided for the City Animal Control Officer?

Is automobile insurance, gasoline (are you aware of the cost of a litre of gasoline?) vehicle repairs, etc., the responsibility of the City of Hamilton?

I could go on. However enough.

NOW POSE EACH OF THE PRECEDING QUESTIONS TO THE CONTRACTED POSITION OF THE GLANBROOK ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND EXAMINE CAREFULLY, EACH ANSWER, AND COMPARE THE FINANCIAL COST OF BOTH.

With the greatest of respect for city employees, is it possibly in the future best interests of the Hamilton Animal Service to rid itself of a contract position in the neighbouring community of Glanbrook?

How long before we the citizens of Hamilton once again hear the hue and cry that there are not enough City of Hamilton Animal Control Officers to contend with vicious dogs, humans suffering animal bites, pictures of children's faces with numerous stitches and scarring. Just how long before the budget submission of Animal Control asks for yet another Animal Control Officer or perhaps more than one officer, to be hired to combat such complaints and genuine concerns..

I have read in the past, in the Hamilton Spectator that there just are not enough City of Hamilton By law enforcement Officers to deal with numerous bylaw violations of specific natures.

I ask Hamilton City Council not to simply peruse this request, to simply say another $75,000.00 saved this year. I ask you to study, examine, debate and make an informed decision.

Look to the future, not simply a savings of $75,000.00 in this years budget.

Perhaps you should be asking yourselves the following question-!!!
Would it not be more prudent and financially responsible to phase out the employment of Animal Control Officers as they terminate employment or retire in favour of contracting out their responsibilities? The City of Hamilton is still at the helm.

.I do believe Councillor Johnson is taking the request to terminate the contract position very seriously in not only representing her own constituents but representing all of the citizens of Hamilton. Councilor Johnson please continue in your endeavours to make an informed decision. .

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP  better said  STUDY, EXAMINE, EVALUATE, BE INFORMED, BEFORE YOU VOTE

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my views in this situation.

Respectfully submitted,
William John Hamilton,
Proud Citizen of the City of Hamilton