SUBJECT: By-law to Prohibit and Regulate Fortification and Protective Elements of Land (PED10011) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the Draft By-law attached as Appendix A to Report PED10011 respecting the Prohibition and Regulation of Fortification and Protective Elements of land be enacted; and,

(b) That a fee be paid to the City with an application for exemption under the Draft By-law in Appendix A to Report PED10011 and be set at $300.00, and that the appropriate By-law be enacted to include the fee in the City’s 2010 User Fees and Charges By-law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2002, the Province of Ontario amended the Municipal Act, R. S. O. Chapter 25, 2001, Section 133, 1(a) and (b) which gave municipalities the authority to pass by-laws that prohibit excessive fortification of buildings and properties. Shortly after, municipalities throughout the province, one by one, started to enact By-laws pursuant to this new power outlined in Section 133 of the Municipal Act.

This new power granted to municipalities was deemed necessary for the protection and safety of Ontario communities. Excessive fortification of property can potentially pose a
serious risk to the health, safety and welfare of emergency service personnel and law enforcement officials when responding to such premises in an emergency situation. It is also recognized that excessive fortification of land poses a serious threat to the safety and integrity of adjacent properties as well as the owners and occupants of those properties that abut fortified lands.

The attached draft By-law in Appendix “A” prohibits and regulates the fortification of land by physical strengthening and protective elements like surveillance which are excessive. As stated above, excessive fortifications can prevent or delay effective emergency response, including law enforcement. The purpose of the By-law is to help access and egress of persons by removing excessive levels of fortification which may limit their safety or response during an emergency. The By-law will limit excessive fortification to help emergency responders, private rescuers and persons escaping from an emergency on properties. Enforcement of the By-law will be in conjunction with construction carried out under the Building Code Act, and otherwise will be enforced through information or complaints received from emergency services personnel and the general public. The proposed By-law also applies to existing buildings, which will be allowed at least 3 months to correct any pre-existing excessive fortification in orders issued under the By-law.

It should be noted that a fortification By-law is not intended to address Planning Act issues such as building location or normal site plan issues.

**BACKGROUND:**

The authority to deal with fortification of properties was added to the Municipal Act to assist municipalities and other emergency responders in controlling excessive fortification of property, which either limited their response or endangered such persons.

Exemptions are included in the proposed By-law to exclude properties that legitimately require fortification, such as:

- Financial institutions
- Police Services facilities
- National Defense buildings and properties
- OPP or RCMP headquarters
- Detention Centres

The proposed By-law is also not intended to prevent normal levels or methods of security or surveillance used in residential, commercial businesses, industries and institutional properties. The draft By-law attempts to set the level of excessive fortification beyond those normal means and levels, but to limit fortification or protective measures where they pose either a significant risk or hindrance to emergency services personnel. This level was chosen because it recognizes the needs and wishes of the existing community in having ordinary levels of fortification even though some of these can limit emergency response and safety in escaping emergencies. The draft By-law attempts to draw a limit where the fortification would significantly limit or delay emergency response or where the design is intended to prevent emergency response.
Prohibiting this level also gives some protection for persons on the property who may need to escape from an emergency, or who are privately trying to carry out a rescue in an emergency. Adjacent properties and persons thereon can also be benefited, as emergency response is faster and more effective such as in preventing the size and spread of fire. Surveillance and other protective elements like electrified fencing or similar dangerous barriers are included in the By-law as these can limit proper law enforcement and are sometimes employed in illegal operations. The latter examples also pose dangers to other persons entering the property. Enforcement of the By-law can also limit the use of property for illegal operations, as preventing or removing such fortification makes properties unattractive to use for illegal activity. The By-law may then help curb criminal activity such as problems with marijuana grow operations and clandestine labs.

It is expected some fortification will be identified before construction, as the By-law becomes applicable law for purposes of the Building Code Act. The By-law will otherwise be enforced through information from emergency services personnel and because of this approach is not expected to involve additional staffing. Public complaints are expected to be few but may impact staffing requirements.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The police services in many communities including Hamilton have been seeking the assistance of such By-laws to deal with criminal activity. Consultation by the City included local emergency response agencies to consider the level of excessive fortification involved. The draft By-law will aid a variety of emergency services personnel in their response by limiting excessive fortification of property, and help other rescuers, persons and property owners' health and safety without unduly limiting the general public's need for security. The By-law attempts to limit only excessive fortification, and is therefore only likely to affect persons who want or have such excessive levels of fortification. The By-law has a number of appropriate excluded uses and purposes and a minor exemption process to address unique or limited fortification that otherwise do not unduly impair emergency response. The By-law is modeled after the City of Chatham's By-law which was successfully upheld under court challenge, but has been modified in content for Hamilton's purposes and by including new features of enforcement since available under the Municipal Act.

The draft By-law has an exemption process intended to allow property owners to get approval for minor variations from the By-law requirements, provided they have rational support for the need for the exemption, that emergency access to property is not unreasonably interfered with, and the exemption does not cause another contravention of law. The By-law delegates this decision to the Chief Building Official (CBO) or his designate and the decision of an appeal of the decision of the CBO to the Fire Chief, all on the basis that it is a minor decision, that the impact of the narrow exemption will be minor and limited to specific properties, and that Council can revoke the delegation at any time.
Contraventions Pre-dating the Enactment of the By-law

The Municipal Act, 2001 allows the By-law to be retroactive, and the draft By-law applies to properties even if they are excessively fortified at the time the By-law is enacted. The Municipal Act requires that orders made against properties already fortified at the time of enactment will be given at least three months to be brought into compliance.

Powers of Entry

The draft By-law takes advantage of newer Municipal Act powers for orders and inspections, which will assist with enforcement of the By-law. Entry to buildings still has limitations, but the ability to issue orders and to obtain inspection warrants will help with the entry and enforcement of the By-law.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Do not enact the proposed By-law, which would result in no staffing or financial implications of significance, but would continue to allow properties within Hamilton that may be excessively fortified, thereby inhibiting access by emergency services and law enforcement officials in emergency situations.

Alternatively, a more restrictive approach to prohibiting fortification could be implemented. This would help even further emergency response and others but would negatively impact a large number of persons using normal or minimal security. Enforcement and administration costs would be excessive as many properties would be captured in the scope of a more restrictive by-law.

Adjustments to the By-law can be made in the future if the level of permitted fortification needs change.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial: No financial implications. A fee for the exemption application is set on the basis that it will approximate cost recovery for the review process.

Staffing: No staffing change is included. Council approval of the By-law and its enforcement includes that these will be implemented with existing staff, relying on information received through the building permit process and from emergency services.

Legal: The By-law relies on current Municipal Act authority, which requires that the municipality enacting such a By-law also be responsible for enforcement of the Building Code Act, and which provides authority for enforcement powers and the delegation of minor decisions.
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

Notice of an additional fee has been published as required by By-law 07-351 “A By-law to Adopt and Maintain a Policy with Respect to the Provision of Public Notice”

Building Inspection operating policies to be revised to reflect the enactment of the By-law.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Legal Services, Hamilton Emergency Services and Hamilton Police Services have been consulted in the preparation of the By-law. Hamilton Police Services has indicated it will support enforcement where their assistance is required.

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
The implementation and enforcement of this proposed by-law will enhance the well-being of the residents and communities in Hamilton, by introducing safeguards against excessive fortification of properties/buildings thereby permitting emergency response personnel proper access to properties/buildings when responding to emergency situations.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
The implementation and enforcement of this proposed by-law will remove obstacles which inhibit the timely and effective rescue and assistance provided by emergency services personnel. Although the environmental benefits are slight, any efficiencies realized will have a positive impact on the environment.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
As communities benefit from the implementation of this proposed by-law, they will thrive to a greater measure, which in turn should bolster businesses and promote investment in Hamilton.

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

JWL:fd
Attach.
Authority: Bill No.

CITY OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 10-____

Being a By-law To:

Prohibit and Regulate Fortification and Protective Elements of Land

WHEREAS Council of the City of Hamilton deems it in the interest of health, safety and the protection of the public to regulate fortification and protective elements with respect to land, buildings and structures in the City of Hamilton and to prohibit excessive fortification of land, buildings and structures regardless of whether the fortification or protective elements were present on the day this by-law is passed, by means of a by-law limiting the impact on egress from or access to lands in case of emergencies and rescue, including access and egress by Emergency Service Personnel with duties involving emergency response such as for fires, ambulance and police matters;

AND WHEREAS access and escape from land, buildings and structures may be required both by emergency service responders for rescues and protection of property in cases of emergencies, and by the public, which access and escape may limit personal danger and property loss during emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is responsible for the enforcement of the Building Code Act, 1992, and by sections 8, 9, 10 and 133 of the Municipal Act 2001, Chapter 25 as amended, may enact by-laws to deal with fortification and protective elements in respect of land and land use, including by regulation or prohibition;

AND WHEREAS Council deems the process herein of considering an exemption under this by-law and the decision reached to be a minor and administrative matter, and wishes to delegate the consideration, refusal or approval of such exemptions to the Chief Building Official and Fire Chief or their deputies and designates pursuant to Part I of the Municipal Act, including particularly sections 23.1, 23.2 and 23.5, and further Council has considered that such exemptions would be limited in their impact on persons particularly emergency services responders given the limited nature of the available exemption, that such
exemptions are limited to particular properties, and that the delegation to staff may be revoked by Council at any time;

AND WHEREAS Part XIV of the Municipal Act, 2001, including sections 425, 429, 435 through 440, and 444 through 446, provides for enforcement of by-laws, including provisions for the creation of offences and fines for contravention, inspections, powers of entry, work orders to bring properties into compliance, orders to discontinue contravening activities, warrants regarding inspection or search of properties, the carrying out of matters or things required under by-law and the collection of costs of such work;

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

SHORT TITLE

1. This By-law may be cited as the “Fortification By-Law”.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2. In this By-law,

(1) “apply” or “application” where the context requires means the erection, installation, extension or material alteration or repair of or application to land and includes to construct.


(3) “Chief Building Official” means the officer appointed by Council for the City as the Chief Building Official pursuant to Section 3 of the Building Code Act, 1992 S.O. 1992, c. 23, as amended from time to time, or his or her deputy or designate.

(4) “City” means either the municipal corporation of the City of Hamilton or the geographic area of the City of Hamilton as the context requires.

(5) “construct” means to do anything in the erection, installation, extension or material alteration or repair of a building or structure and includes the installation of a building unit fabricated or moved from elsewhere and “construction” has a corresponding meaning.

(6) “Council” means the municipal council for the City.
(7) “Director” means the City’s Director of Building Services, or his or her designate or deputy.

(8) “Emergency Services Personnel” means any individual employed by a Police Service, Hamilton Emergency Services - Fire including volunteer fire fighters or persons acting in aid under mutual or automatic aid agreements, or of Hamilton Emergency Services – Emergency Medical Services and such other ambulance and fire services that may respond to emergencies in Hamilton, and such other municipal, local, provincial, federal or other Crown agency’s emergency responding personnel, who respond in cases of specific or general emergency and require access to or egress from land while acting under statutory or common law duty, and includes any person acting under the direction of such personnel.

(9) “excessive fortification” and “excessively fortify” means the use, maintenance or construction of devices, barriers, or materials in a manner designed to hinder, obstruct or prohibit access to or from land or have the effect of hindering, obstruction or prohibiting access to or from land and which are the following, or similar type of fortifications:

a. The application of steel plates, steel bars, bullet-proof shutters or heavier than 10 gauge wire mesh to window or other openings of structures on land, but not including basement windows or basement openings;

b. The application of concrete block, brick, or other masonry or similar product to partially or completely obstruct or seal any doorway, window, or other exterior entrance or egress to land;

c. The application of steel sheeting or plates or other similar products to the interior or exterior walls of land such as to replace walls or create a secondary wall such as to protect against firearms, artillery, explosives, vehicle contact, shock and the like;

d. The application of bullet resistant/proof material or glass to windows or doors;

e. Armour plated or reinforced doors, both exterior or interior, designed to resist against impact of firearms, artillery, explosives, battering rams, shock or vehicle contact;

f. The construction of pillars, cones, barriers out of concrete, steel, or other solid building material that are designed to damage or
block access onto any land by conventional motor vehicle at ordinary points of entry for such vehicles so as to prevent reasonable access by Emergency Services Personnel; or

g. The construction of an observation tower designed to enable the visual observation of surrounding areas beyond the perimeter of the land actually owned or leased/rented by the occupant whether the tower is occupied by an individual or a surveillance camera or like equipment.

(10) “excessive protective elements” means the use, maintenance or construction of devices, objects, material components, or any contrivance designed for surveillance or to control, hinder, restrict, or deny access to or from land or have the effect of controlling, hindering, restricting or denying access to or from the land and which are the following or similar types or levels of protective elements:

a. The application of perimeter warning devices such as “laser eyes” or other types of advanced warning systems be it electronic or otherwise designed to forewarn of the approach to or encroachment onto the perimeter of land from adjoining lands or roadways but excluding similar applications to forewarn of entry into a building located on land;

b. The application of electrified fencing or any similar perimeter barrier including hidden traps, electrified doors or windows, explosive devices or any weapon or thing that may become a weapon when triggered or activated on encroachments to land whether designed to, or by application in such manner is, likely to cause death or serious injury; or

c. The application of visual surveillance equipment, including video cameras, ‘night vision’ systems, or electronic listening devices capable of permitting either stationary or scanned viewing or listening, designed or operated so as to listen or view persons or land beyond the perimeter of the land actually owned, leased or rented by the occupant.

(11) “Fire Chief” means the chief of the fire department appointed by Council pursuant to Section 6 of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4, as amended from time to time, or his or her deputy or designate.

(13) “fortification” or “fortify” means the construction of devices, barriers, or materials in a manner designed to hinder, obstruct, or prohibit access to or from land or have the effect of hindering, obstructing or prohibiting access to or from the land and includes excessive fortification.

(14) “land” includes buildings, mobile homes, mobile buildings, mobile structures, outbuildings, fences, erections, physical carriers and any other structures on the land or on or in any structure on the land.

(15) “occupier” means a person residing on or in immediate possession of land, or of a part of land where relevant to notice of entry to the land or part.

(16) “Officer” means a Building Inspector appointed under any City By-law, or any other person assigned or appointed by the Director to administer or enforce this By-law, includes a person employed by the City whose duties are to enforce this By-law, and further includes a police officer.

(17) “owner” in relation to land means a person who has registered title to the land, and includes the heirs, executors, administrators or successors and assigns or other legal representative of such person.

(18) “person” includes a corporation, a partnership, and the heirs, executors, administrators, executors and assigns or other legal representative of a person.

(19) “police officer” means an officer sworn or appointed as a member of any police service in Canada and includes a police officer assisting or being directed by the Hamilton Police Service.

(20) “protective elements” means devices, objects, material components, or any contrivance designed for surveillance or to control, hinder, restrict or deny access to or from land or have the effect of controlling, hindering, restricting or denying access to or from the land and includes excessive protective elements.
3. Nothing in this By-law shall be interpreted to prevent compliance with the requirements of building, fire or electrical safety codes under provincial law which apply to the land.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

4. No person shall:

   (1) Excessively fortify any land or cause, permit or maintain the excessive fortification of land;

   (2) Apply, use, cause, permit or maintain excessive protective elements to or on land; or

   (3) Hinder, obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, an officer, police officer or other person exercising a power or carrying out a duty under this by-law, or any persons assisting such officers, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing any Emergency Services Personnel.

EXEMPTIONS

5. Subsections 4(1) and (2) above do not apply to:

   (1) Financial institutions as identified and listed in Schedules I, II, and III of the Bank Act. S.C. 1991, c.46 as amended from time to time;

   (2) Detention centers operated by the Crown or an agency of the Crown, zoned for such use or otherwise permitted by law;

   (3) Lands, wherever situated, owned or occupied by the Ontario Provincial Police or an Ontario Municipal Police Service in accordance with the Ontario Police Services Act, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or to the activities of such police services, including specifically and without limiting generally the foregoing, the monitoring carried out by Hamilton Police Services of public lands or streets with City consent;

   (4) Lands, wherever situated, owned or occupied by any Federal Department or Agency of the Government of Canada;

   (5) Electrified fencing used by agricultural operations which have livestock for the purpose of controlling movement of the livestock;

   (6) The use by public authorities using bollards or similar barriers to motor vehicles to limits access by such vehicles on public
recreational trails or recreational properties at entrances to such trails or properties;

(7) Lands, wherever situated, owned or occupied by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; or

(8) Other agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional establishments where an approval has been granted in accordance with sections 7 through 11 of this By-law, provided:

a. The fortification or protective elements are limited to the extent of their approval;

b. Such agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial or institutional establishment and fortification or protective element is in compliance with zoning and otherwise lawfully permitted;

c. That conditions imposed on the approval are complied with; and

d. The fortification or protective elements are constructed and maintained in accordance with the plans submitted and approved under this by-law.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF BY-LAW

6. Subsections 4(1) and (2) do not operate to prohibit:

(1) The use of commercially marketed household security devices, provided their use is as designed, and they are applied to provide reasonable fortification and protection from theft or other criminal activity against the person or property of an individual, and which do not meet the definition or are not employed so as to meet the definition of excessive protective elements particularly clauses (a), (b) and (c) of that definition;

(2) The use of protective elements such as “laser eye” or other advanced warning devices on windows or doors of a dwelling house for the purpose of providing a warning to the occupants of that dwelling house or structure or to dispatch Emergency Services Personnel where an actual entry into a dwelling house has occurred;

(3) Common household alterations or renovations where the location or style of a door or window may be altered for purely aesthetic reasons and meets Building Code and Fire Code requirements and
have received any permit required to complete such alteration or renovations;

(4) Warning or protective devices to detect smoke, carbon dioxide gas, carbon monoxide gas and fire required by the Building Code or Fire Code, or installed in premises to give early notice or response to smoke, gas or fire conditions, or to alert emergency services of such conditions; or

(5) The securing of openings in vacant buildings, or the closing of fire or other accidental structural damage to buildings as required under the City’s Property Standard’s By-law as amended, or by an order issued under either the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, S.O. 1997, c.4 or the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992, c. 23.

APPLICATION FOR LIMITED EXEMPTION

7. Any person who is either the owner of land, or an occupant who has the consent of the owner to apply, and who wishes to make application for a limited exemption from the provisions of the By-law shall file with the Building Services Section of the City, the following:

(1) An application for the exemption from any provision(s) of this By-law shall be signed and in writing, with the signed consent of the owner and occupant, together with the application fee set by the City for such applications;

(2) Complete details of the location of the land, including Municipal address, zoning nature (agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial or institutional), current use and particularly if a dwelling whether it is occupied, the intended use if a change is proposed, and, if requested a recent survey of the land and structures shall accompany the application;

(3) A consent and contact information necessary to allow staff of the Building Services Section and Emergency Services Personnel as required by the Building Services Section to attend the property and examine existing fortification and protective elements, the placement of the proposed or under construction, and as constructed fortifications or protective elements, to confirm details of the application and compliance with this By-law and any approval as may be granted;

(4) A detailed scaled plan of the design and construction proposed, together with an explanation of the exemption(s) requested and the reasons for requesting such an exemption(s). This shall include
details of Fortification or Protective Elements being applied for along with an explanation of how such Fortification or Protective Element is rationally connected to the purpose for which the exemption is being sought; and

(5) Such other information as the Chief Building Official may require, with or after submission of the application, as deemed necessary or relevant to this By-law in their sole discretion, and at the expense of the applicant, including but not limited to:

a. requests for clarification, further details and documents from the applicant;

b. the making of inquiries to, and supplying of responses from the owners or occupants of the land, the suppliers or manufacturers of the materials, equipment or system proposed to be installed, and from local, Provincial or Federal government offices or agencies relevant to the application or consideration of same; and

c. signed consent(s) to make inquiries of, collect or obtain information, from such persons or agencies as the Chief Building Official may require, including but not limited to the collection of information from the Hamilton Police Service on the history of break-ins or other security incidents involving the applicant’s land, and investigations of same, and departments of Emergency Services Personnel or other potential emergency responding agencies who may have comments or concerns on the application, and covering the provision of information on the application to such persons as is required under this By-law.

8. (1) All applications under section 7 will be reviewed by the Chief Building Official or designate, unless the application is incomplete, the fee is unpaid, or any information required under this By-law or requested by the Chief Building Official has not been supplied.

(2) It is a condition of an application under this part, and of any approval of an exemption, that the owner and occupant of the lands affected provide reasonable access to their land and premises for the purpose of inspecting the land and any protective elements or fortifications for the City, provided such access is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act and particularly in respect of a place actually used as a dwelling.

(3) The following are deemed conditions of any approval of an exemption under this By-law:
a. that the fortification or protective elements authorized be built and maintained in accordance with the plans and specifications as approved by the City;

b. inspections are allowed as reasonably required to confirm the installation or construction is in compliance with the approval and other provisions of this By-law;

c. the approval is specific to the land and is not transferable, but that the applicant advise and provide details to any new owner or occupant of the land about the exemption and features of fortification or protective elements in use on the land;

d. the approval expires if there is a change of the primary use of the land to another primary use; and

e. an exemption approved under this By-law shall in no way be construed or interpreted as an exemption, limitation or excuse from a person’s requirement to abide by or comply with any other Federal or Provincial law or regulation, or other municipal by-law.

**GROUND FOR APPROVING EXEMPTION**

9. (1) Upon review of the application completed under section 7, the Chief Building Official may issue a limited exemption, with or without additional conditions as the Chief Building Official deems in their sole discretion to be appropriate to the exemption and purposes of this By-law, if:

a. the nature and extent of the exemption does not exceed that which is rationally proven, to the satisfaction of the Chief Building Official reviewing the application, to be necessary,

b. the access to or escape from the property for Emergency Services Personnel is not unreasonably interfered with or limited; and

c. the granting of the exemption would not result in any contravention of any other applicable law including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Building Code Act, S. O. 1992, c. 23, the Official Plan and Zoning By-law of the City.
(2) The Chief Building Official may consider as part of the rationale for their decision in subsection (1), whether existing, previous or proposed fortification or protective elements were or are sufficient or reasonably necessary, and the existing or proposed use of the land and part to which the exemption is to be applied.

10. An authorized exemption provided to an applicant will reference this By-law and bear the signature of the Chief Building Official, and may include such time limit as deemed appropriate by the Chief Building Official, and notice of the granting or refusal of an exemption together with the reasons for the Chief Building Official’s decision shall be personally delivered to the applicant, sent by electronic transmission or by a facsimile transmission, or sent by regular or registered mail to the applicant at the address provided, and service by electronic or facsimile means shall be deemed received on the day after it was sent, or if a holiday the next day which is not a holiday, and if sent by mail shall be deemed to have taken place five (5) days after the date of mailing.

11. A true copy of any authorization issued under Section 10 and plans or designs approved and information of which they were based, may be forwarded by Building Services Section to the attention of the Chief of Police for Hamilton Police Services or designate, the General Manager of Hamilton Emergency Services or designate, and such other agency or department which the Chief Building Official deems appropriate.

APPEAL FOR REFUSAL EXEMPTION OR CONDITIONS ADDED

12. (1) Where the Chief Building Official refuses to grant an exemption applied for under section 7, or adds conditions to the exemption granted under section 9, the applicant may either appeal the refusal or appeal the conditions added by the Chief Building Official and have a hearing held into the appeal under this section.

(2) The request for an appeal under subsection 12(1) above, to be accepted and proceeded with by the City, shall be filed with the Building Services Section of the City of Hamilton within fifteen (15) days of the applicant being notified of the decision of the Chief Building Official under section 10 above, shall include the grounds for the appeal, and shall be accompanied by a fee in the same amount as required for the application under section 7.

(3) Where there has been a request for an appeal filed in compliance with the requirements of this section, the Fire Chief shall cause notice of the appeal hearing to be sent to the parties, being the applicant and the representative of the Building Services Section of the City of Hamilton, and such notice shall be either delivered
personally, sent by electronic transmission or by a facsimile transmission, or sent by regular or registered mail to the applicant at the address provided, and service by electronic or facsimile means shall be deemed received on the day after it was sent, or if a holiday the next day which is not a holiday, and if sent by mail shall be deemed to have taken place five (5) days after the date of mailing, which such dates of service on the applicant to be at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

(4) The Fire Chief shall conduct the appeal, and sections 4 through 18, 20 through 23, 25.0.1, 25.1, 27 and 28 of the Statutory Powers Procedure Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.S.22 apply to the conduct of such hearings.

(5) The Fire Chief at the hearing shall consider whether the applicant meets all of the requirements of this By-law and whether the applicant should be granted the exemption or modification in accordance with the provisions of this By-law on the basis provided for an exemption herein particularly section 9, with or without additional conditions including any time limit, and make a decision at the conclusion of the appeal whether to allow the appeal and grant an exemption or to modify or remove the conditions added to the exemption by the Chief Building Official, or whether to impose additional conditions, or whether to deny the application for exemption or modification, and may impose such terms and conditions to such decision in accordance with the provisions of this By-law as the Fire Chief in their sole discretion considers proper in the circumstances.

(6) If no appeal is filed under this By-law within the time limits imposed by this section, the decision of the Chief Building Official is final and binding on the applicant, or where the appeal is decided by the Fire Chief at a hearing under this section the decision of the Fire Chief is final and binding upon the applicant, and there is no further appeal from such decisions.

(7) Sections 10 and 11, and subsections 8(2) and 8(3) of this By-law apply, with any necessary modifications, to the decision of the Fire Chief made after an appeal hearing.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

13. The Director is authorized to administer and enforce this By-law, including the taking of such steps, arranging assistance or work by City staff or agents, and for the issuance of orders and imposition of conditions as necessary to ensure compliance with this By-law, for arranging for the
obtaining of court orders or warrants as may be required, and for 
commencing such actions on behalf of the City to recover costs or restrain 
contravention of the by-law as deemed necessary.

14. The Director may assign Officers to enforce this By-law who shall have the 
authority to carry out inspections, make directions, orders to discontinue 
contravening activities or to do work to correct contraventions, to give 
immediate effect to any order and otherwise enforce this By-law, and the 
Director may assign duties or delegate tasks under this By-law to be 
carried out in the Director’s absence or otherwise, and may request police 
officers assistance for enforcement including obtaining orders for entry as 
may be required.

15. In accordance with the conditions set out in sections 435 and 437 of the 
Municipal Act, 2001, including the provision of notice to an occupier when 
required and production of the Officer’s identification when requested, an 
Officer may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of 
carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not the following are 
being complied with:

(a) this By-law;
(b) a direction, authorization, requirement, condition or order made 
under this By-law; or
(c) an order made under section 431 of the Municipal Act, 2001 in 
respect of a contravention of this By-law.

16. No person shall remove an order, notice or direction posted on land 
indicating it was posted under this By-law, except an Officer.

17. (1) An Officer may, for the purposes of an inspection under this By-law:

a. require the production for inspection of documents or things 
relevant to the inspection;

b. inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the 
inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts;

c. require information from any person concerning a matter related 
to the inspection, including requiring expert or other examinations, 
testing, reports or as constructed plans to be obtained and 
provided; and
d. alone or in conjunction with a person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purposes of the inspection.

(2) A receipt shall be provided for any document or thing removed under clause (1)(b) and the document or thing shall be promptly returned after copies or extracts are made.

(3) Any sampling done during an inspection shall be done in accordance with subsections (3) and (4) of section 436 of the Municipal Act.

(4) An inspection requirement, direction or order made to a person under this section may be given verbally, but where the City intends to act upon such matter at the expense of the person, the requirement, direction or order shall be made in writing and may be served personally, sent by prepaid or registered mail to the last known address of such persons affected by it as the Officer determines, or posted in a prominent place at the premises. Service by mail shall be deemed to have taken place seven (7) days after the date of mailing.

18. An Officer may undertake an inspection pursuant to an order of a court issued under section 438 of the Municipal Act, 2001, provided however that in the case of an order authorizing an inspection of a room or place actually being used as a dwelling the occupier is given notice concerning when the inspection will be carried out.

19. (1) If an Officer is satisfied that a contravention of this By-law has occurred, the Officer may make an order requiring the person who contravened the By-law or who caused or permitted the contravention or who is the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to discontinue the contravening activity.

(2) An order under this section shall set out:

a. reasonable particulars adequate to identify the contravention to be discontinued and the location of the land on which the contravention occurred; and

b. the date by which there must be compliance with the order.

20. (1) If an Officer is satisfied that a contravention of this By-law has occurred, the Officer may make an order requiring the person who contravened the By-law or who caused or permitted the
contravention or who is the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to do work to correct the contravention.

(2) An order under this section shall set out:

a. reasonable particulars of the contravention adequate to identify the contravention and the location of land on which the contravention occurred;

b. the work to be done, which may include but is not limited to requiring that:

   i. prior to performing any work, all necessary permits or other approvals be applied for and obtained, and any information, production, inspection or examination required under section 16 be supplied or carried out;

   ii. the date by which the work must be done; and

   iii. A notice stating that if the work is not done in compliance with the order within the period it specifies, work done may be at the expense of the person or the owner of the land.

(3) An order under this section may require work to be done even though the facts which constitute the contravention of this By-law were present on the day this By-law came into force, provided however that in such circumstances the order made under this section in respect of such pre-existing fortifications or protective elements shall provide not less than three (3) months to complete the work.

21. An order to discontinue contravening activity made under section 19 or an order to do work made under section 20 may be served personally or be posted in a conspicuous place on the land where the contravention occurred, or sent by prepaid regular or registered mail to the last known address of the person to be served, and service by mail or posting shall be deemed to have taken place five (5) days after the date of mailing or posting.

FAILURE TO COMPLY AND COST RECOVERY

22. (1) Where a person defaults in complying with a direction, requirement or order under this By-law to do a matter or thing, the Director may cause an Officer or agent on behalf of the City, with such assistance from others as may be required, to enter the land on
which the contravention occurred at any reasonable time, and to carry out such direction, requirement or order at the person’s expense.

(2) The City may recover the costs from the person directed, required or ordered to do a matter or thing under this section, by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes, and such costs shall include an interest at an annual rate of 15 per cent.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, interest shall be calculated for the period commencing the day the municipality incurs the costs and ending on the day the costs including the interest are paid in full.

(4) The Director may give immediate effect to any direction, requirement or order to be carried out under this section where the costs of carrying out the direction, requirement or order do not exceed $20,000. Where the estimated costs exceed $20,000, the work shall be carried out only where directed by a person with the authority to approve such expense, or by Council.

(5) The amount of the City’s costs incurred plus interest to the date payment is made in full, constitutes a lien upon the land, upon the registration of a notice of lien upon the land.

OFFENCES AND PENALTY

23. (1) Subject to subsection (2), any person who contravenes a provision of this By-law, or an officer or director of a corporation who knowingly concurs in such a contravention by the corporation, is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine or penalty as follows:

a. for a first offence, a maximum of $20,000.00;

b. for a second offence, a maximum of $50,000.00; and

c. for a third or subsequent offence, a maximum of $100,000.00.

(2) Any person who contravenes any order made under this By-law, or an officer or director of a corporation who knowingly concurs in such a contravention by the corporation, is guilty of a continuing offence and upon conviction is liable to a daily fine or penalty of a maximum of $10,000 for each day or part of a day that the offence continues, and despite subsection (1) the total of all the daily fines
imposed for an offence is not limited by the maximums listed in subsection (1).

CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY

24. It is intended by Council that this By-law provide a higher level of protection to the health, safety and welfare for Emergency Services personnel attempting to perform their duties and protect the public, rather than conflict with other law or other City by-laws.

25. In the event of conflict between this By-law and the Building Code enacted under the Building Code Act, 1992, the Building Code prevails, and further an exemption under this By-law does not preclude any requirement under the Act or Building Code including the requirement for the permit under the Act.

26. Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare a part of whole of any provision of this by-law to be invalid or of no force and effect, the provision or part is deemed severable from this by-law and it is the intention of Council that the remainder survive and be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible under law.

ENACTMENT

27. This By-law comes into force on the date it is passed.

PASSED this day of , 2010.

________________________ ________________________
Fred Eisenberger         Kevin C. Christenson
Mayor                    Clerk