Council Direction: City Council, at its March 31, 2010 meeting approved the following:

“(a) That, in accordance with the direction to investigate/report with costing and an implementation plan for an 18 month proactive by-law enforcement pilot program for Wards 1 to 8, approval be given to the following;

(i) hiring six temporary part-time Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, at a cost of $450,000;

(ii) a temporary full-time clerk, at a cost of $90,000;

(ii) the allocation of $58,000 operating costs of 3 cars;

(iv) that the total cost of $598,000 for the 18 month programme be financed from the Parking Reserve #108021, and that fees and fines from the program be returned to the Reserve to off-set the costs.”

Information: Staff named the pilot “PROJECT COMPLIANCE”, and began implementation immediately following Council approval by mapping the various
complaints/by-law infractions and scheduling meetings with Councillors to gain information necessary to establish enforcement focus areas for each of the eight Wards.

The selection/hiring process also began immediately with the six part-time MLE Officer positions being advertised internally and externally on April 15, 2010. A total of 135 applications were received, and of those, 17 candidates were interviewed.

The six chosen candidates bring a wide background of enforcement experience/education in such fields as the Armed Forces, Criminology, Security and Policing. They commenced their duties on May 31st and attended Ontario Association of Property Standards training for the week. They will complete their training during the month of June and the pilot will officially begin in July 2010. They are scheduled to be ceremoniously sworn in at Committee of the Whole on July 6, 2010.

The six part-time officers are being Supervised by Municipal Law Enforcement Superintendent Glyn Wide, with Joe Xamin, Senior Project Manager Operational Strategies being the lead on program evaluation. Performance measurements by which to assess the effectiveness of the pilot are still being developed, but will include measurements for such factors as cost recovery, by-law compliance, reduced complaints, etc.

Staff has established enforcement focus areas for problem properties and/or key neighbourhoods in each of the eight Wards as follows:

**Ward 1** - property standards issues associated with single/semi detached housing in the neighbourhoods in close proximity to McMaster University

**Ward 2** – internal property standards issues associated with Hamilton Housing units

**Ward 3** - visible (i.e. outside) property standards issues such as garbage and debris, long grass/weeds associated with single/semi-detached housing

**Ward 4** - property standards issues associated with single/semi detached housing and multi-residential buildings as well as monitoring illegal dumping in vicinity of high-rises

**Ward 5** - internal/common area property standards issues associated with multi-residential buildings, as well as monitoring illegal dumping in vicinity of high-rises

**Ward 6** – property standards issues associated with single/semi detached housing and multi-residential rentals along key arterials as well as monitoring illegal dumping along The Mountain Brow.
Ward 7 - external property standards issues associated with Hamilton Housing properties and single/semi detached housing in close proximity to Mohawk College, as well as monitoring litter complaints around High Schools.

Ward 8 - property standards issues associated with single/semi detached housing in the neighbourhoods in close proximity to Mohawk College

With respect to the focus in Wards 2 and 7 related to Hamilton Housing, there is an effective process already in place and Hamilton Housing Property Managers attend to violations identified by enforcement staff. Enforcement staff will be working with Hamilton Housing Management to maintain/enhance that process for violations identified through the proactive efforts.

Staff will continue to report periodically with new information/updates as necessary in order to keep the Committee fully informed as the pilot project progresses.

MH/dt