THE TASK FORCE ON CLEANLINESS AND SECURITY IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE PRESENTS REPORT 10-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **Appointment of new member to Task Force**
   
   That Susan Braithwaite be appointed as a member of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core.

2. **Update from Hamilton Police Service**
   
   That a letter be prepared to the Chief of Police expressing the Task Forces appreciation for work being accomplished through the increased patrols in the Downtown Core.
3. **Motion to receive an assessment on the Task Forces Fall 2009 budget requests versus that status of tasks completed, begun and or currently funded for the 2010 year. (Item 6.3)**

That following the conclusion of the City Budget Process for this year, taking into account any Provincial Monies granted, the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core requests an assessment of its fall 2009 Budget request versus that status of tasks completed begun and or currently funded for the 2010 year.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

(a) The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Councillor Bratina.

(b) **Changes to the Agenda (Item 2)**

Kathy Drewitt introduced one change to the Agenda requesting that Susan Braithwaite be appointed onto the Task Force by motion.

The agenda was approved as amended, on a motion.

(c) **Declarations of Interest (Item 3)**

There were none.

(d) **Minutes of Previous Meetings (Item 4)**

The minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2010 were approved.

(d) **Added item – Update from Hamilton Police**

At the request of Chair Bratina, Staff Sergeant Ron Cox gave the Committee an update on the Hamilton Polices recent downtown patrol Action Team initiative as well as the third homicide of the year in the city which occurred in the downtown area. The Sergeant indicated that they have laid 187 Charges 207 tickets in the past three weeks. Sergeant Cox outlined how they are catching criminals sometimes through simple by-law enforcement. He described how one other benefit of the increased patrolling is that they are creating an information network of informants simply through their presence in the area. The Sergeant also updated the Task Force on what he could divulge about the City’s third homicide of the year.

Chair Bratina inquired about the Police horses, to which the Sergeant updated the Committee that the new police horses will be on their way to the downtown area, however they are going through the process of getting them acclimated to being in a city
Chair Bratina inquired from Brian Kreps, Manager of Homelessness, if he was aware of any conflict arising between the Police and the homeless with the new Action Team Initiative. Brian outlined how there is a large amount of data indicating that the homeless as a group are often victimized and that working with police is an important aspect in preventing that. He also provided an update on the closure of the overnight program at the Wellesley Centre at the end of July.

Chair Bratina asked about why he has encountered pan handlers further away from downtown to which Sergeant Cox indicated that it is part of the displacement theory caused by the increased police patrols in the area. The Sergeant went onto indicate that they can’t do much with when it comes to polite panhandlers. He did later add that there is law in place that requires that panhandlers don’t operate close to public transit or taxi stands.

Staff Sergeant Cox went on to add that police have heard anecdotally that some jurisdictions have given out bus tickets to Hamilton and that the area is known as a Mecca of social services. The Sergeant said that it isn’t the mandate of the police to try to repatriate the homeless to their original Communities but that it is something that is done when the individual has charges outstanding in other jurisdictions.

Chair Bratina asked for Vince Ormond, Superintendent Parking and By-Law Services, for an update on the item that was recently before the Licensing Tribunal and City Council related to Peep shows and what aspects of licensing fall under the City’s jurisdiction.

Chair Bratina also asked for an update from Mr. Ormond about allowing the liquor license to be extended to 10:00 a.m. during the World Cup. He indicated that it hasn’t yet been passed provincially adding that he doesn’t expect for this to be done for this year’s World Cup.

(e) PRESENTATIONS

None

(f) Updates from Last Meeting/Other Business

(i) Update to Committee RE: Maintenance Issues in the Downtown Core, Identified by The Downtown/West Harbourfront Co-ordinating Committee. (Memo attached) (Item 6.1)

Chair Bratina referred to a previous information report and indicated that the Downtown Cleanliness Provisions many of which would be addressed on an as needed basis. The Chair inquired if the Task Force should be involved with defining these priorities as they had previously defined many
of them as priorities and it was disheartening to see that they were only being addressed on an as needed basis.

Ron Marini suggested that they need to make sure the right individuals from Public Works are invited to the Task Force in order to report on the costing to the Committee and review the discrentional nature of priorities.

The Task force motioned that Bryan Shynal be requested to attend the next meeting of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core to receive the Task Forces comments.

(ii) General Discussion on Buskers (no copy) (Item 6.2)

Staff Sergeant Mark Cox indicated that the bottom line is that Busking is not against the law. He pointed out that most of the tickets are being issued because individuals were too close to a public transit or taxi stands.

Sergeant Cox said he has made inquiries and to his knowledge there has only been four tickets given in that last year and a half, two of which have become prominent in the media. He indicated that Busking really is not a big issue in the City.

When questioned by the Task Force Vince Ormond indicated that they do sometimes get complaints related to Buskers using amplifiers or the location of the Buskers.

Chair Bratina indicated that there are some problems with the quality of music being played. Sergeant Cox agreed indicating that there should be some auditioning process.

The Task Force was informed that there will be a report coming forward to Economic Development and Planning Committee dealing with the City’s Marketing Plan that will begin the process of looking at licensing these individuals. Sergeant Cox suggested that if they do look at licensing that they should include a police background check on the individuals.

The Task Force discussed how to go about whether or not to license all Buskers or designate areas where only City approved Buskers can work in City defined areas.

The Task Force motioned that Anna Bradford be invited to come to the next meeting of the Task Force on Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core to discuss strategies around street music.
(iii) Motion to receive an assessment on the Task Forces Fall 2009 budget requests versus that status of tasks completed, begun and or currently funded for the 2010 year. (Item 6.3)

See item 3 above for disposition.

(g) Other Business

Kathy Drewitt talked about how she was cleaning out a flower planter near the Methadone clinic and she found two needles. There was some discussion on what could be done about this and an indication that item would be brought back to the Committee at a future date as a staff report was being prepared for another Committee.

(h) Adjournment

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Councillor Bob Bratina, Chair

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
May 28, 2010