Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee
REPORT 08-001
Thursday, August 21, 2008
10:00 a.m., Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger, Ex-officio
         T. Cooper (Chair)
         Councillor R. Powers, (Vice-Chair)
         T. MacLeod and J. Wingard

Absent with
Regrets: Councillor B. Clark, personal commitment
         Councillor B. Bratina, City business
         Councillor M. McCarthy, vacation

Also Present: A. Tokaci, Chambers
              M. Zegarac, Senior Policy and Projects Manager, Budgets and
              Finance Division
              D. Omazic, Mayor’s Office
              I. Bedioui, City Clerk’s Office

THE FAIRNESS TO HAMILTON CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT
08-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Election of Chair
   That Tom Cooper be appointed Chair of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-
   Committee.

2. Election of Vice-Chair
   That Councillor Russ Powers be appointed Vice-Chair of the Fairness to Hamilton
   Campaign Sub-Committee.

3. Delay in releasing the Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery
   Review
   That City Council forward correspondence to the Premier, the Finance Minister
   and the local M.P.P.’s advising of Council’s concern in the delay in announcing the
   results of the Joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review and
   request that all parties work expeditiously to ensure delivery by year-end 2008 as
   the current economic downturn makes the Province’s announcement all the more
   urgent.
FOR INFORMATION

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

(c) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

(d) DISCUSSION

(i) Upcoming provincial-municipal fiscal and service delivery review
(T. Cooper – no copy) (Item 6.1)

Mayor Eisenberger advised that the Province is not ready to announce the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review at the upcoming AMO conference. The new target date for the release is mid-September which will be prior to the next municipal budget sessions.

The Premier has advised that the delay is due to the modifications required to the review because of the current economic downturn.

Councillor Powers added that the Premier will be speaking on Monday morning at the AMO Conference and it is anticipated that he will make an announcement but not to the degree that the municipalities have been waiting for. He indicated that he and the Mayor will be attending the AMO Conference and they will keep the Sub-Committee members apprised of any developments.

Jeff Wingard noted that social services programs will be hit even harder during times of economic downturn and therefore a prompt announcement from the Province is all the more needed.

Chair Cooper suggested that there is an opportunity to communicate the effects of the economic downturn by initiating a letter writing campaign from Council and the Community.

Tyler MacLeod indicated that he will relay the Sub-Committee’s concerns to the Minister of Finance and to the Chamber of Commerce.

On a motion (Powers/Eisenberger) the Sub-Committee approved the resolution as outlined in Item 3 of this report.
(ii) Announced ‘Federal Infrastructure’ funding (no copy)(Item 6.2).

The Sub-Committee noted that the “Federal Infrastructure” funding was announced several weeks ago.

Councillor Powers provided a hand-out from AMO regarding this topic.

Mayor Eisenberger advised that Hamilton will apply for funding for roads, water and sewers and also gateways and borders. He expects that Hamilton will receive a fair share.

Councillor Powers indicated that it is unknown how the funds for infrastructure will be distributed among the municipalities. It is hopeful that the formula for applying for this funding will be announced before the end of this year.

A discussion followed on the funding that Kitchener/Waterloo received for rapid transit. The Mayor explained that Hamilton has a better opportunity to obtain transit funding through the Metrolinx program rather than through the Federal Infrastructure program.

It was noted that with the upcoming Federal election, notices should be sent to the party leaders advising that an infrastructure program needs to be included in their campaign platforms.

Jeff Wingard noted that the Employment Insurance (EI) distribution is currently unfair to Hamilton. With the existing EI restrictions, the economic downturn will also cause more people to seek social assistance. A reform to the E.I. is required to rectify this and in addition Ontario is receiving less benefits from E.I. than the other provinces.

Mike Zegarac advised that staff have prioritized capital projects and are trying to be strategic with respect to the Federal and Provincial priorities and Council's strategy and have developed a short list. The City Manager's Office is currently preparing a report outlining the above to SMT and Council by mid-September or October and if endorsed by Council will become a communication tool to the Federal and Provincial governments. The document can also be uploaded onto the website. The Payments-in-Lieu (PILS) is an item included in this short list.

(iii) Public Communication Strategy (as per February 4, 2008 Minutes) (Item 6.3).

The Sub-Committee confirmed that the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee web page is up and running. The members agreed to have an off line discussion of who will be maintaining and updating the web page.
(e) OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LIST

(i) Motion to remove Item A respecting Economic Downturn Scenarios (Item 7.1)

As Item A of the Outstanding Business list respecting Economic Downturn Scenarios has already been completed, it was removed from the outstanding business list. The Sub-Committee requested that staff re-circulate to the Committee members the information which they had previously provided with respect to this item.

(ii) New due date required for Item B and due dates required for the balance of the Items (Item 7.2)

(i) Item B – the due date was changed to “after the announcement of the Provincial fiscal funding”;

(ii) Items C to F were referred to staff to provide due dates.

(f) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cooper, Chair
Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Assistant
Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee
August 21, 2008