To: Chair and Members
Emergency & Community Services Committee
Outstanding Business Item No. F and Issue: Arena Renovation/Replacement – Valley Park Arena

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Date: October 30, 2007
Re: Feasibility of Twinning Valley Park Arena (ECS07082) (Ward 9)

Council Direction:

At its meeting of December 15, 2004, Council approved Item 20 of the Corporate Administration Report 04-018, which read as follows:

20. Motions – Arena Expansion/Replacement (Item 11)

That the Community Services Committee be requested to direct staff to investigate the feasibility of twinning Morgan Firestone and Valley Park and finding a replacement for North Wentworth Arena, with no impact on the budget.

Reports respecting the feasibility of twinning of the three arenas noted above will be addressed through separate reports.

In 2006, staff retained Jacques Whitford Limited to review the feasibility of twinning the Valley Park Arena. The review concluded that based on physical, environmental and real estate, it is possible to twin the existing Arena. The recommended option to twin would be to construct parallel and immediately adjacent to the existing arena. The construction of the twin would require additional mechanical and electrical system support to maintain the indoor environment and the new rink. Savings would be minimal, as the proposed twin would require an upgrade to the domestic water, natural gas, electrical services as well as a review of the current capacity of existing water and sewer services. The estimated cost associated with the twinning, including soft and hard services, is approximately $8 to $10 million.
Information:

Currently, the Recreation Division is completing the Public-Use Study. Phase I of the Study has been completed and the findings were presented at the October 3, 2007, Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting (Report ECS07068 - Use, Renovation and Replacement Study for Hamilton Recreation and Public-Use Facilities).

The Consultant's report included:

- Socio-demographic trends of Hamilton’s population, based on the recently released 2006 census data;
- Recreation facility profile, including analysis of the distribution and usage of each type of recreation facility; and,
- Public consultation of Hamilton’s recreation facilities.

Phase II of the study, which will be completed in the second quarter of 2008, will provide an implementation strategy to meet the current and anticipated needs of city residents, as well as provide opportunities for expansion of additional and/or improved community services.

Information gathered in Phase II, will assist Council and staff in developing a Strategic Plan for future recreation facilities, including those that meet the needs of ice users. Therefore, the need for the twinning of the Valley Park Arena will be considered as part of the recommended strategy.

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