Present: Councillor B. McHattie (Chair), T. Cooper (Vice Chair), R. Adams, J. Dolbec, L. Sapiano, F. Scremin, Aurelia Tokaci and J. Wingard

Absent with Regrets: Councillor S. Merulla – Scheduling Conflict
Councillor T. Whitehead – Out of Town

Also Present: M. Joannette, Executive Assistant, Mayor’s Office
C. Wheeler, Coordinator, Corp. Initiatives, City Manager’s Office
M. Zegarac, Manager of Policy and Projects, Budgets & Finance
S. Paparella, Legislative Assistant, City Clerk’s Office

THE SOCIAL SERVICES DOWNLOADING STEERING COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-001 FOR INFORMATION:

(a) Final Draft Report – Downloaded Dilemma: Background Report for the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee, dated January 13, 2006 (Item 4.1)

This item was brought forward to the January 25, 2006, meeting of Council, where it was approved.

(a) That Council receive the consultant’s report, Downloaded Dilemma: Background Report for the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee; and,
(b) That the Mayor be requested to forward the report, with a cover letter co-signed by members of the Social Services Downloading Committee (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, SPRC, Hamilton Civic Coalition, and McQuesten Legal Services), to all area MPPs copying the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs John Gerretson, and Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan.

(b) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk noted that on Page 14, of the Final Draft Report – Downloaded Dilemma: Background Report for the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee, under Section 5.1, the following amendment was made:

….the City’s net gross budget was attributed….

(c) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None were declared.

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

The minutes of the December 21, 2005, meeting of the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee were adopted and approved, as amended.

(e) Communication Strategy (Item 4.2) and Provincial Support Strategy (Item 4.3)

Items 4.2 – Communication Strategy and 4.3 – Provincial Support Strategy were combined and discussed together.

J. Dolbec noted that he was very disappointed that the media *incorrectly* stated, in its newspaper article of December 22, 2005, that the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee suggested that they would support a City of Hamilton Act.

The Committee discussed the need to address two key issues: (1) the necessity for short-term assistance and recognition of Hamilton’s unique social services dilemma, until a long-term resolution can be determined; and, (2) a long-term sustainable solution to Hamilton’s social services needs.

Committee of the Whole – February 10, 2006
(f) **Next Steps (Item 4.4)**

T. Cooper consented to draft the report cover letter and to forward to the Clerk by February 25, 2006, as well as to assist with the press conference/rally.

Councillor McHattie noted that he would provide local area MPPs with a courtesy call, to inform them once the report has been sent, so that they are aware should the media contact them.

(g) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 5)**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Assistant
January 20, 2006

Councillor B. McHattie, Chair