To: Chair and Members  
Audit and Administration Committee

Outstanding Business Item: Referred from Audit and Administration on September 23, 2009 Audit and Administration Committee Outstanding Business Item T

From: Kevin C. Christenson  
City Clerk  
Corporate Services

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Date: November 2, 2009

Re: Election Campaign Contribution Rebates (CL09006(a)) (City Wide)

**Audit and Administration Direction:**

At its meeting of September 23, 2009, Committee instructed:

(a) That staff be directed to conduct public information sessions in the broader community respecting municipal election campaign contribution rebates;

(b) That information and a questionnaire respecting municipal election campaign contribution rebates be placed on the City’s website; and

(c) That staff report back to the Audit and Administration Committee with the results of the public consultation

**Information:**

To gain a public perspective regarding the Election Campaign Rebate Program an information sheet and survey (attached as Appendix “A”) were produced.

This survey was available at all City of Hamilton Municipal Centres and the City Clerk’s office located in the City Centre.

Additionally, residents were able to visit the City of Hamilton website, review the information, and complete the survey online.
At each of the Municipal Centres the program was reviewed with staff, and each staff member was provided with contact information for those residents requiring a more detailed explanation.

Advertisements were taken out in the Hamilton Spectator and Hamilton Community News newspapers to assist in promoting a strong response from the public.

The survey ran for a two week period and received a total of 81 responses. Responses were received from all 15 wards and are summarized as follows:

**Support of a rebate program:**

- 88% - No
- 12% - Yes

**Contribution Rebate Eligibility (if program initiated):**

- Individuals only - 70%
- Candidates and their families - 20%
- Individuals, Corporations and Trade Unions - 8%
- Corporations and Trade Unions - 2%.

**Minimum donation required to receive a rebate (if program initiated):**

- $100 - 67%
- $25 - 28%
- $50 - 2%
- $75 - 2%

**Maximum amount that should be allowed as a rebate (if program initiated):**

- $100 - $200 - 81%
- $400 - $500 - 11%
- $300 - $400 - 6%
- $200 - $300 - 2%

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Kevin C. Christenson
City Clerk
Corporate Services
Public Survey to Residents of the City of Hamilton Relating to Election Campaign Rebate Program

The City of Hamilton is currently considering a rebate program that would allow for the payment of rebates to individuals who make contributions to candidates running for City Council in the 2010 Municipal Election.

This rebate program would be directly funded through your tax dollars.

Preliminary estimates show a City of Hamilton rebate program costing between $170,000 and $300,000.

As these are only estimates actual costs may increase or decrease based upon formulas yet to be determined by City Council.

To assist the City in determining if this program should be adopted we are soliciting the residents of the City of Hamilton for their input.

The survey results will be compiled and presented to an upcoming Audit and Administration Committee meeting for their consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the rebate program or the survey please contact:

Tony Fallis: Acting Manager of Elections
Phone: 905-546-2424 extension 2753
E-mail: tfallis@hamilton.ca

Surveys may be dropped off to any of the City of Hamilton Municipal Centres or the Office of the City Clerk at Hamilton City Centre, or be mailed to the following address:

City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
Attn.: Tony Fallis
Office of the City Clerk
Suite 220 - 77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

PLEASE TURN OVER AND COMPLETE THE ELECTION REBATE SURVEY!
Election Campaign Rebate Survey

Please answer the following questions:

First Name: __________________ Last Name: _________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

City: ________________________ Postal Code:________________________

1) Would you support a contribution rebate program funded by the City of Hamilton?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

2) If a rebate program is approved please indicate which of the following types of contributors you would support receiving a contribution rebate:

   Individuals only       Yes ☐ No ☐
   Corporations and Trade Unions only   Yes ☐ No ☐
   Individuals, Corporations and Trade Unions Yes ☐ No ☐
   Candidates, spouses and their children Yes ☐ No ☐

3) If a rebate program is approved what would you like to see as the minimum donation required to be eligible for a rebate?

   $25.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   $50.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   $75.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   $100.00 Yes ☐ No ☐

4) If a rebate program is approved what would you like to see as the maximum rebate a contributor would be entitled to?

   Between $100.00 and $200.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   Between $200.00 and $300.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   Between $300.00 and $400.00 Yes ☐ No ☐
   Between $400.00 and $500.00 Yes ☐ No ☐

This information is being collected under the authority of Section 224 of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used to provide City Council with data regarding a potential contribution rebate program. If you have any questions regarding the information being collected, or the collection process please contact Tony Fallis, Acting Manager of Elections at 905-546-2424 Extension 2753 or 77 James Street North, Suite 220, Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3.