MOTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee

Committee Date: March 21, 2007

MOVED BY B. MCHATTIE ........................................................................................................

SECONDED BY ......................................................................................................................

Fires in Westdale Area Student Housing

WHEREAS, there have been three fires in student housing in the Westdale area surrounding McMaster University in the past 16 months, and

WHEREAS, the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc. (AWWCA) have been concerned for years about the condition of homes, which have been converted into student rentals, and believe that the situation is becoming more critical, and;

WHEREAS, on behalf of almost 19,000 undergraduate students, the McMaster Students Union (MSU), has requested that the City of Hamilton provide assistance by offering fire inspections to ensure that student housing is meeting code and that these homes are safe for residency, believing that the condition of some student homes are especially dangerous and may contain violations of the fire code.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Hamilton Emergency Services be directed to work with the Ward 1 Councillor, the AWWCA, and the MSU to undertake a pilot project in which ten (10) to fifteen (15) houses in Ainslie Wood and Westdale are selected for thorough inspection to identify typical hazards in student houses.