At its meeting of June 27, 2007, Council approved Report PED07184, “City of Hamilton Support for the 2010 Can-Am Police-Fire Games Bid”. The Report authorized the bid, submission of a letter of intent, and staff to establish a Bid Committee and begin the necessary work to comply with bid specifications as presented by the Can-Am Police Fire Games Board of Directors. Hamilton’s letter of intent was submitted on July 1, 2007, along with letters of intent from seven (7) other municipalities; one (1) Canadian city and six (6) U.S cities.

Once the letter of intent was submitted, Tourism Hamilton staff received the full bid guidelines. Staff has analyzed the bid specifications, drafted an event budget, identified facilities to host the competitions and athletes, reviewed previous events and assessed the return on investment. Staff has been consulting with Hamilton Police Services, Hamilton Emergency Services and the Recreation Division as part of this process.

While staff believes that the event is a “good fit” for Hamilton, they are recommending that Hamilton not bid for the 2010 event, and instead assess a future bid opportunity, potentially for 2012 or 2014. The event requires significant resources, both human and financial, to host. By looking at a future date, staff will have the opportunity to grow the capacity to support such a large event, including having additional time for recruiting volunteers and potential sponsors. There are also other events that Tourism Hamilton is bidding for and hosting in 2010 that may have affected the resources staff could dedicate to the Can-Am Police Fire Games in that year.

Staff is also suggesting that an assessment for a future bid opportunity be referred to Tourism Hamilton’s Sport Tourism Advisory Committee as part of their deliberations on developing a long-term bidding calendar. Tourism Hamilton staff will communicate this decision to the Can-Am Police Fire Games organization, indicating strong interest in bidding for a future opportunity.
Background on the Can-Am Police Fire Games:

The Can-Am Police Fire Games began in 1977 in Spokane, Washington, and have been a showcase for law enforcement and fire personnel from across North America to share in the camaraderie of testing their skills in athletic competition among their peers. The event occurs every two (2) years in June, July or August. The Games were first hosted in Canada in 2004 in London, Ontario and will be hosted in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 2008.

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Tim McCabe
General Manager
Planning and Economic Development Department
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