CITY OF HAMILTON
NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: August 9, 2011

MOVED BY ..........COUNCILLOR B. McHATTIE.................

Open Data Policy

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton’s expressed values are: accountability, excellence, honesty, innovation, leadership, respect and teamwork; and that the City wishes to involve its citizens in living these values;

AND WHEREAS the adoption of an Open Data policy is intended to advance these values for the following reasons:

- municipalities across Canada have an opportunity to lower their costs by collectively sharing and supporting software they use and create;
- the total value of public data is maximized when provided for free or where necessary only a minimal cost of distribution;
- when data is shared freely, citizens are enabled to use and re-purpose it to help create a more economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable city; and Hamilton needs to look for opportunities for creating economic activity and partnership with the creative sectors;
- the adoption of open standards improves transparency, access to city information by citizens and businesses and improved coordination and efficiencies across municipal boundaries and with federal and provincial partners;
- digital innovation can enhance citizen communications, support the brand of the city as creative and innovative, improve service delivery, support citizens to self-organize and solve their own problems and create a stronger sense of civic engagement, community and pride;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in pursuit of an open data policy, the City of Hamilton directs the City Manager to report back to Council on open data, open standards and open source, including validating and quantifying the benefits listed above, and the implications, resources, risks and benefits of endorsing the following principles:

- Open and Accessible Data - the City of Hamilton will freely share with citizens, businesses and other jurisdictions the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns;
• **Open Standards** - the City of Hamilton will move as quickly as possible to adopt prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps and other formats of media;

• **Open Source Software** - the City of Hamilton, when replacing existing software or considering new applications, will place open source software on an equal footing with commercial systems during procurement cycles.