SUBJECT: Request for a School Crossing Guard at the Intersection of Currie and Beaconsfield Streets (PED06051) (Ward 6)

RECOMMENDATION:

That a School Crossing Guard not be assigned to the intersection of Currie and Beaconsfield Streets at this time but that City staff continue to enforce illegal stopping of motor vehicles, and that the Hamilton Police Service be asked to continue enforcing the stop sign violations at this location.

Lee Ann Coveyduck
General Manager
Planning and Economic Development Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Long-standing practice has been to assign School Crossing Guards to locations where there are documented safety concerns and/or where school children are experiencing difficulties in crossing public highways.

BACKGROUND:

Councillor Tom Jackson has requested an investigation into the need for a School Crossing Guard at the intersection of Currie and Beaconsfield Streets, and has asked that a copy of the letter from Richard Beasley School be attached to this report. (See attached Appendix “A” to Report PED06051).
Staff conducted studies at this intersection during both the morning and afternoon school crossing periods. During the morning there were 60 crossings of Currie and 16 crossings of Beaconsfield and during the afternoon there were 53 crossings of Currie and 6 of Beaconsfield. No problems which would have an impact on safe crossings were experienced by children crossing at this location during these studies. Staff did note motorists occasionally failing to stop properly at the stop sign when no pedestrians were present but motorists were yielding to all pedestrians. The stop sign violation concern has been forwarded to the Hamilton Police Service for action. Hamilton Municipal Parking System staff is also enforcing the illegal stopping which is an ongoing safety concern around all schools.

It is not practical or feasible to assign School Crossing Guards to every intersection where children cross the road. In order to properly allocate resources, long standing practice has been to assign School Crossing Guards to locations where there are documented safety problems, and/or where children experience difficulty crossing the road. As noted above, observations indicate that pedestrians confidently and correctly cross these roadways under present conditions.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Currently, during school crossings periods, children cross at this location confidently and without any assistance. Maintaining the status quo at this intersection will allow funding for School Crossing Guards to locations where the safety of children is a concern.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Assigning a School Crossing Guard to this location during the morning/evening crossing periods would cost approximately $4,000.00 annually. There is currently one (1) School Crossing Guard allocated in the 2006 budget, which has not been committed to at this time.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Staff is merely being reallocated such that no additional expenditures will be incurred for increased enforcement at this location.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

The recommendation is consistent with long-standing practice of assigning School Crossing Guards only to locations where there are documented safety concerns and/or children experience difficulties crossing public highways.
RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

The request for a School Crossing Guard at this location was initiated by Councillor Tom Jackson on behalf of the Principal and Parent Council of Richard Beasley School of Ward 6. Letter attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED06051.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Quality services are provided which residents can rely on in support of the community's quality of life.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
This recommendation for a school crossing guard is consistent with the City's goal of maintaining a healthy, safe and green city under Section 3(f) of the Strategic Plan by improving the safety of residents.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Service quality and community priorities are reflecting in the recommendation

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?

☑ Yes ☐ No

The recommendation creates value for the community, environmental and economic well being by meeting Provincial requirements and leading to a sustainable community.

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?

☐ Yes ☑ No

WY/MBH
Attach. (1)
December 15, 2005

To: Tom Jackson

Re: Crossing Guard

Dear Tom:

On behalf of Richard Beasley students, parents and School Council we would like to thank you for your assistance with our continuing traffic safety issue. We have noticed an improvement in our parking situation and feel it is a very positive first step in helping to alleviate our safety issue. However, we have taken into consideration the children’s safety while crossing at the crosswalk at Beaconsfield and Currie, and feel this is still a serious concern. Our children’s safety is in question while crossing at this crosswalk. In fact the entire community’s safety is called into question during peak school drop off and pick up times. After considering all the input and all of the facts concerning this situation, we as a council are recommending a Crossing Guard for this crosswalk. As our Ward 6 Alderman we appreciate your help in seeing that a Crossing Guard is placed at this crosswalk for the safety of everybody involved as soon as possible! This matter is urgent and we expect to have it resolved immediately.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter, and please don’t hesitate to contact us if you require anything further.

Sincerely

Ronald Little,                 Melanie Horning               Libby Avery,                 Tracy Roberts
Co-Chair’s Richard Beasley School Council  Richard Beasley School Council

Doug Steele, Principal
Richard Beasley School