

Hamilton Chamber Of Commerce Brownfield Resolution

Issue:

To encourage the progress of the 'Brownfield' issues facing the City of Hamilton.

Background:

The City of Hamilton has undertaken a number of initiatives and programs in order to assist with promoting the redevelopment of Brownfield sites.

- Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) Program
- Historic Land Use Study (HLUS)
- Brownfield Land Banking Study

These items were included in a public consultation process and a summary of the information is appended.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce urges the City of Hamilton to:

1. Consider renaming the 'list' of previously identified 91 Brownfield sites to something with less potential negative undertone/connotation. The list of sites could be referred to as "Infill Sites for Potential Development". It is understood that the 91 sites include vacant sites, abandoned buildings and those behind in their taxes. Underutilized sites are not included since there is no recognized definition for underutilized, which is a subjective characteristic. As well, those sites that are in tax arrears should not automatically be presumed to be a Brownfield site.

2. Exercise consistent land policies and enforce building standards, including their own properties.

b) Enforce the tax arrears policy that is consistent with provincial statutes in order to obtain the economic benefits at the earliest opportunity.

3. Review historical designation and heritage property designations. The list of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) properties includes several hundred sites, and these designations may be contributing to the number of derelict and underutilized properties. If these barriers are removed, it may assist with infill. Examples include the church at Bay Street and Hunter Street, the Auchmar buildings on Fennell Avenue and the Lister Block.