



January 10, 2008

Mr. Tim McCabe  
Planning & Development Department  
Development Division  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main St. W., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Tim:

**Re: Restructuring of Planning and Economic Development Department  
City of Hamilton**

Thank you for your presentation to our Business Development Committee on Wednesday January 9. We are encouraged by the good news you brought to us which highlighted the intent to not only create a more efficient municipal structure, but also seek to change attitudes at the municipal level so that as a corporate entity, every individual who is involved in planning and economic development is equipped to function as an ambassador who can effectively convey the message that Hamilton is open for business. The Chamber applauds this initiative and is committed to supporting this endeavour in any way it can. As I noted, do not hesitate to let us know how we may take specific steps to support and encourage the initiative you have put together.

We were pleased to see that you have built in a monitoring and review mechanism to assess the effectiveness of this program. We agree that any program such as this needs to have performance measures built in so that successes can be carefully tracked and properly monitored. To that end, we would hope that you would be available to report back to us on a regular basis to confirm the success of these endeavours.

The one element of concern moving forward is the time element associated with moving through any form of legislative process at the City. We have been told by a number of our members that the approval process is slow, cumbersome, expensive and uncertain at present. If we truly are successful in attracting new investment to our community, we cannot have them frustrated by getting stuck in the approval process, withstanding the best intents of all parties involved. Having developments ready or construction in a timely manner is of utmost importance. If we cannot achieve this objective, successes we may achieve through this new regime will be undermined. As a result, we would encourage you and your department to ensure there is an element of certainty built into the approval process and that there is a mechanism put in place to allow proponents to move through the process in a predictable and timely manner.

Thank you again for your time and your obvious commitment to improving the quality of life within the City of Hamilton. Congratulations on the support you have been able to achieve from Council. We look forward to continuing to be able to work with your department to ensure that we are all able to realize the benefits of the tremendous potential within our great community.

Sincerely,

J. Higgins  
Chair, Business Development Committee

cc. Paul Mallard  
Neil Everson  
David Adames  
Tyler MacLeod