



PAN- AM GAMES STADIUM LOCAL

"CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY"

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TO BE PRESENTED FEBRUARY 18, 2010

GOOD MORNING.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE FOR ALLOWING US TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU TODAY. OUR PRESENTATION IS IN REGARD TO THE LOCATION OF THE STADIUM FOR THE PAN AM GAMES.

THE HAMILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS RESEARCHED AND DEVELOPED POLICIES ON THIS ISSUE DATING BACK TO 2004. WE HAVE CONSULTED OUR MEMBERSHIP, WHICH REPRESENTS OVER 2,100 BUSINESSES EMPLOYING OVER 75,000 EMPLOYEES, AND HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHAT OPTION MAY BEST SUIT THIS CITY.

WITH REGARD TO OUR CITY'S WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE WATERFRONT WAS KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN. LOCATING A STADIUM IN A LOWER CITY LOCATION CONTIGUOUS WITH THE WEST HARBOUR REVITALIZATION AREA IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM THE WATERFRONT.

THIS WOULD IMPROVE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE WEST HARBOUR AND THE DOWNTOWN AREA AND ALLOW THE WEST HARBOUR TO BECOME AN ATTRACTION AREA RATHER THAN MERELY A PASSIVE RECREATIONAL AREA. IT IS VITAL THAT THERE IS YEAR-ROUND/DAY-LONG ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE WATERFRONT NEEDS DIVERSITY, AS WELL AS BALANCE; INCLUDING A PLAN THAT WOULD ESTABLISH LONG-ESTABLISHED WATERFRONT USES. IT WILL ALSO BE A MATERIAL SHOT IN THE ARM TO BADLY NEEDED DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED TO SEEK A BALANCED USE OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL USES. THE INTENT IS TO BROADEN THE RANGE OF ATTRACTIONS ON THE WATERFRONT, ANIMATE IT YEAR ROUND, BOOST THE CITY'S TOURISM INDUSTRY AND SUPPORT A HEALTHY, ACTIVE HARBOUR. THIS ALSO ADDRESSES THE CRITICAL THEMES OF PUBLIC ACCESS, CONNECTIVITY, DIVERSITY AND BALANCE IN A DISTINCT WAY. WE NEED TO EMBRACE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF RECENT PARKLAND AND TRAIL INITIATIVES AND CREATE A REMARKABLE, MULTIFACETED WATERFRONT FOR ALL HAMILTONIANS.

MUCH OF THE LAND IN THE PREFERRED INDUSTRIAL AREA REMAINS ABANDONED. THE AREA NO LONGER HOLDS A STRONG RATIONALE FOR PRESERVING LAND IN THIS PART OF THE CITY FOR INDUSTRIAL USES. THE AREA NEEDS TO BE REDEVELOPED WITH USES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THE WATERFRONT TO THE NORTH.

WHILE IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE ISSUES OF SITE CONTAMINATION AND PROXIMITY TO THE RAIL YARD, THESE ISSUES DO NOT REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDS FOR A STADIUM FOR THE PAN AM GAMES.

THE OTHER CRITICAL ISSUE WE FACE IS ACCESS TO THE STADIUM AND PARKING. TO HELP MINIMIZE THE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IMPACTS FROM A STADIUM ON ADJACENT NEIGHBOURHOODS, AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF PARKING SPACE SHOULD BE PROVIDED ON THE STADIUM SITE. LOCATING THE STADIUM IN THIS LOCATION WOULD ALSO CAPITALIZE ON THE PROXIMITY OF TRANSIT SERVICE MAKING THE LOCATION THAT MUCH MORE SENSIBLE.

THE CHAMBER AND ITS MEMBERS BELIEVE THIS STADIUM COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTE TO THE WATERFRONT AREA AND TRULY BECOME A "*SIGNATURE PIECE*" BUILDING FOR THE CITY. OUR RECOMMENDATION FALLS RIGHT IN LINE WITH WHAT THE CITY HAS DETERMINED IT NEEDS TO ULTIMATELY REINVENT ITSELF ATTRACT MORE VISITORS AND PRODUCE DIFFERENT WAYS TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMY OF THE CITY.

ALTERNATIVELY, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE CITY CONSIDER LOCATING THE STADIUM ON THE LANDS SURROUNDING THE AIRPORT. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT LOCATING THE STADIUM HERE IS THE BEST OPTION FOR THE CITY. THOSE LANDS ARE BEST SUITED FOR EMPLOYMENT GROWTH, SO LOCATING THE ARENA THERE WOULD NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO DEVELOPING THAT AREA

WE HOPE YOU WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHAT WE HAVE PRESENTED BEFORE YOU TODAY AS WE HAVE GIVEN IT EXTENSIVE CONSIDERATION AFTER MUCH RESEARCH AND DELIBERATION AND TRULY FEEL THIS IS THE BEST OPTION FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE HAMILTON COMMUNITY

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO PRESENT THE COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP TO YOU TODAY WITH REGARD TO MOVING THIS CITY FORWARD IN ITS ECONOMY AND ITS PROSPEROUS FUTURE.