



SUBJECT: Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Hamilton with the City of Hamilton

TO: Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.

FROM: Karen Roche, Fire Chief

Report Number: BFD-04-23

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers:

Date to Committee: March 28, 2023

Date to Council: April 18, 2023

Recommendation:

Authorize the City of Burlington to enter into an agreement with the City of Hamilton for the mutual provision of emergency services assistance; and

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to executive all such agreements in a form that is satisfactory to the City Manager and Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

Background and Discussion:

The proposed agreement permits the municipalities to call on the aid of others where and when required. Emergency Assistance Agreements (previously known as Mutual Aid Agreements) generally are agreements where, at the request of the municipality requesting assistance, the adjacent municipality will respond to assist. The benefits to this are self-evident and are reciprocal in nature.

Routine Assistance Agreements (previously known as Automatic Aid Agreements) are recommended in certain specific circumstances where due to geographic location or access to roadways, the Fire Department of an adjacent municipality (or our own) is in a position to respond more rapidly than the Fire Department of the jurisdiction from which the emergency call has originated.

In these cases, both departments will respond to the call. The first arriving Fire Department will immediately render assistance until the Fire Department having jurisdiction arrives and takes over the operations.

Council should be aware that there exist long-term examples of such agreements between communities i.e. the Burlington Skyway Bridge has been utilizing resources from both Hamilton and Burlington for decades.

The Municipal Act, SO 2001, c.25 Section 20 (1) provides that a municipality may enter into an agreement with one or more municipalities or local bodies, as defined in section 19, or a combination of both to jointly provide, for their joint benefit, any matter which all of them have power to provide within their own boundaries.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, S.O. 1997, Chapter 4 (hereinafter called the “FPPA”) authorizes a municipality to enter into an automatic aid agreement with other municipalities as defined under Section 1 (4) of the Act to provide or receive the initial or supplemental response to fires, rescues and emergencies.

Budget Implications:

There are no budget implications as this is a continuation of services provided through the existing agreement.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment.
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation.

Financial Matters:

Total Financial Impact

N/A

Source of Funding

N/A

Other Resource Impacts

N/A

Climate Implications:

Climate change has resulted in hotter summers, increased risk from flooding and increased risk to wind and ice storms. Part of the city's adaptation strategy is emergency preparedness and response within the urban and rural areas. This agreement with the City of Hamilton Fire Department further supports the ability to receive additional emergency assistance when it is needed.

Engagement Matters: N/A

Conclusion:

The proposed agreement makes efficient use of Fire Department resources for the protection of the public in and around the City of Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Roche

Fire Chief

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Appendices:

Appendix A: Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Hamilton.

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council.