City of Burlington

ADM-05-23

Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: **Call on the Province of Ontario to Fund the Third-Party Audit Program**

TO: **Mayor and Members of Council**

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: April 18, 2023

Motion for Council to Consider:

Whereas the Province of Ontario has committed to supporting municipalities in achieving their housing targets, while promoting financial sustainability; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has committed to ensuring municipalities are "kept whole" for any impact to their ability to fund housing enabling infrastructure because of Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*; and

Whereas a third-party review showed the financial impact resulting from the changes outlined in Bill 23 on the Development Charges and Community Benefit Charges to be $36.6 million and $336 million on parkland for the City of Burlington; and

Whereas assessment growth alone from new homes will not cover the loss in development charge and parkland revenue; and

Whereas development in built up areas with some existing infrastructure will also not account for all the costs of new growth, including the need for new parks, transit, community amenities and more community infrastructure that will be required on top of roads, water, and wastewater, to make new communities complete and liveable; and

Therefore, be it resolved that; Burlington City Council calls on the Province of Ontario to fund the third-party audit program as soon as possible in order validate and provide provincial funding to address the City Burlington's growth-related revenue shortfalls created by recent legislation changes.

And further that a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Parm Gill; Natalie Pierre, MPP Burlington; and Effie

Triantafilopoulos, MPP Oakville North-Burlington; Halton Region; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Ontario's Big City Mayors.

Reason:

In late 2022, the Province committed to "ensuring municipalities are kept whole for any impact to their ability to fund housing enabling infrastructure because of Bill 23". To date, no further information has been provided. Without this funding, it is inevitable that growth related projects will be delayed, and it will become necessary to use tax supported funds to ensure growth-related infrastructure is provided for complete communities.

As part of their pre-budget submission, Ontario's Big City Mayors called on the Province to keep "municipalities whole, dollar-for-dollar" after completion of the third party audits.

The unintended consequences of Bill 23 are a significant reduction in development charge funding and other development funding necessary to pay for community infrastructure such as community centres, fire halls, parks, trails, libraries and more that is required to support and create complete communities in Burlington.

Outcome Sought:

The Province of Ontario funds a third-party audit of the City's development charges and park dedication impact analysis reviews in order validate and provide provincial funding to address the City Burlington's growth-related revenue shortfalls created by recent legislation changes.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

☑ Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
☐ Improve integrated city mobility
☑ Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
☐ Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
☐ Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Councillor Paul Sharman, Ward 5

Share with Senior Staff ☑

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: none

City Manager: none