

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Hamilton Road Area Community Improvement Plan (O-8866)

- Dannielle Allaire, President, Hamilton Road Community Association – advising that Hamilton Road has been around for a very long time; noting that her house was built before 1907; indicating that there are a lot of older homes, a lot of older businesses and they are falling apart; stating that is a huge problem; indicating that they have the highest percentage of homeowners in the City and they are treated like second class citizens; pointing out that when you are coming in from Toronto, you are heading Downtown, Google takes you right down Hamilton Road and what do you see when you drive down Hamilton Road; wondering how many people have driven down Hamilton Road and had a good look; pointing out that it is depressing, it is falling apart and it needs work; believing that the only way to improve it is to invest some money into it; requesting that the businesses get money as they need the help, they are small businesses, they are not your big chain stores and they need help; indicating that they cannot do it alone; giving them a loan is not going to help them, is not going to get what everyone needs; they need grants, they need forgivable loans; they need the City to invest in us; we need the City to invest in us; expressing that it is sad that the City has let them go this bad, they have a prostitution problem, they have a drug problem and they have buildings that are falling apart and they need help; stating that she just spent \$30,000 on her house and she is not going to get that in return investment; noting that she has been in this neighbourhood for twenty-five years; enquiring who wants to live there because the City has let them down; reiterating that they need help and the only way to get that is by the City investing in them; get the businesses who want to improve their façades, the buildings fixed up, bring more people in, more businesses in; talking to people who live in Byron, and they say that they are not going to go East of Adelaide; indicating that they have wonderful restaurants but do the people from the west end want to come to them, no, they do not because they do not want to be in that neighbourhood; reiterating that they need the City to invest in them and give them some money to fix up the businesses and the neighbourhoods.
- Dave Broostad, Founding Director, Hamilton Road Business Association – advising that when they started many years ago, there was a course that they took at the Police station called Business Police Academy and they talked about the broken window affect or theory; believing the Councillors are all familiar with it; stating that these derelict businesses along Hamilton Road are our broken windows and they need help to give these businesses a push to get the ball rolling; advising that there are 20,000 cars a day passing both directions on Hamilton Road in some places and it is the way that Google maps sends people Downtown, they spent millions of dollars over the last ten years, justifiably so, fixing up Downtown and would it not be nice if, when they turned that west turn, it looked like they were going the right direction; indicating that, if they have the support of City Council and the Planning and Environment Committee, they can do it.
- Marlene Dale, area resident – advising that she has lived in the Hamilton Road area for forty-five years; indicating that when they moved there it was a wonderful area, everyone owned their own home, everyone went to work, they knew what the school hours were and now they do not even know what is happening; every house has been rented and as people got older and sold their homes or passed away, the landlords from Toronto just came in by the throngs and bought up the houses and now they are renting them at an exorbitant amount of money; stating that if you ever went into one of those places above the businesses along Hamilton Road, where she used to deliver Christmas baskets, and she saw one room with a toilet in it, a hot plate, stove and these landlords were charging \$500 a month to these residents; no wonder Hamilton Road has become so desolate; advising that they need new businesses, they need someone from the City to come into their area and take a really good look, they have the schools there, they have the B. Davidson School where students are learning trades, they have the other schools, they have really good churches but half of these areas are not being utilized because there is so much drug abuse, prostitution and there are also mental challenges; believing that if they did not have the neighbourhood resource centre and the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Center, it would even be a worse situation; stating that they can only do so much as the public and they try to keep their streets clean but as they get older they are so afraid to approach young people; advising that they need more safety, more police protection; noting that the Police run down Hamilton Road all of the time, they do not even know where they are going; indicating that the media is not keeping their area informed of what is actually going on as they hear the fire trucks, police and ambulances going by; asking City Council to please take a good look at Hamilton Road; advising that they used to be a very proud area but now they are almost ashamed some times to say where they live; indicating that they used to have really good shops but everything has moved out of the

area; asking Councillors to come down and take a good look at the buildings that are going to wreck and ruin.