

## **City Moving Forward on Prioritization and Get Tough Approach of By-law Enforcement**

**HAMILTON, ON** – November 18, 2008 – Hamilton's Economic Development and Planning Committee has given its stamp of approval for the new priority-based approach for by-law enforcement in the City. This comprehensive plan highlights top by-law priorities and lists some of the by-laws that will receive periodic proactive enforcement or blitzes. By-laws that impact the public's health and safety will remain top priorities. Staff met with Councillors to get feedback on their top concerns, which provided staff with direction on which by-laws are top priorities for the City as a whole. "Focused and proactive by-law enforcement will enhance efficiency and the City's ability to maintain community standards. In addition, safety and aesthetics in our community will be improved," says Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

"Approval of this plan is a positive first step for the Hamilton community. Our team is working very hard to get ready to implement these recommendations and priorities. Education is a huge component of by-law enforcement whether it's face to face education delivered by our officers or messages in forums such as the media. The more the community knows and understands, the more likely we will see an increase in compliance," says Marty Hazell, Director, Parking & By-law Services. Over the next few days and months residents will see an increase in by-law awareness for winter-related by-laws such as the Snow and Ice By-law, which is one of the top priorities.

Councillors are very supportive and pleased with this priority based approach in conjunction with a public education campaign that seeks to provide clear and strong messages to the community. "The community needs to know it's not business as usual when it comes to by-law enforcement. I fully endorse the new get tough approach to municipal law enforcement, especially when it comes to repeat offenders," says Terry Whitehead, Councillor and Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) looks after over 50 by-laws. MLE Officers investigate complaints received from the public about alleged violations of various municipal by-laws. A few of the top priority by-laws that residents can expect to see the get tough approach include: yard and waste maintenance, solid waste, street/traffic By-law, property standards, business licencing, sign enforcement, vital services and noise.

If residents have questions or would like to register a complaint about a municipal by-law they can access information online at [www.hamilton.ca/mle](http://www.hamilton.ca/mle) or contact Municipal Law Enforcement: Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm via phone: 905-546-2782 or email: [mle@hamilton.ca](mailto:mle@hamilton.ca).

- 30 -

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