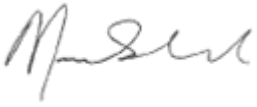




## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members of City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	August 8, 2025
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Common House Café Update (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise that the Hamilton Business Centre has successfully completed the first year of the Common House Café Food Program. This innovative Café program provided a successful launch pad for five food businesses, all receiving expert guidance and mentorship vital to supporting their success in the food sector.

The Common House Café is an innovative program, made possible through a partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the City of Hamilton Economic Development Department and Hamilton Business Centre. The Common House Café was designed to be more than just a place to grab a coffee, but rather a hub for nurturing entrepreneurial talent. Guided by the team at the Hamilton Business Centre, participants received monthly mentoring, training, and guidance to support their success in the Hamilton food industry.

On Friday, August 8 the Common House Café will officially graduate the first cohort of successful participants. Each business has achieved great success in completing training, mentoring, and navigating the challenges of operating a thriving food business. All participants have successfully grown their business through increased sales, expanded employment in the Hamilton business sector, and grown local partnerships.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Common House Café Update (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

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The Common House Café will briefly close starting Monday, August 11 to support the transition of the current program participants to the new incoming business participants. The temporary closure is needed to allow moving needs, thorough cleaning and other touch-up needs within the space before it reopens on Monday, August 25.

There will be a brief onboarding training period for all new participants, followed by a grand reopening and formal launch of the program during Small Business Week in October 2025.

For more information about the Common House Café program, please contact Kristin Huigenbos (Kristin.Huigenbos@hamilton.ca), Coordinator, Hamilton Business Centre.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A