

# Your City Your Future



## Survey Results



Hamilton



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

**CITY WIDE  
IMPLICATIONS**

<b>To:</b>	Members of Committee of the Whole		
<b>From:</b>	Mayor Fred Eisenberger	<b>Telephone:</b>	905 574-3733
		<b>Facsimile:</b>	905 546-2340
		<b>E-mail:</b>	mayorfred@hamilton.ca
<b>Date:</b>	March 5, 2007		
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Survey / Budget Consultation Results (City Wide)</b>		

**Council Direction:** n/a

## **Information:**

Over a three week period beginning February 5, 2007, the Mayor's Office embarked on a public consultation process to solicit thoughts and priorities of all residents for 2007 and beyond. The result was the first-ever Your City – Your Future survey.

The survey was available to the public online through the city's website and in hard-copy at Municipal Service Centres and Hamilton Public Library branches. The survey was advertised using both traditional and new media sources. Newspaper advertisements were placed in the Stoney Creek News, Mountain News, Ancaster News, Dundas Star News, Flamborough Review, The View, and in The Hamilton Spectator. Radio advertisements featuring City Councillors aired on 900CHML, Y108, K-Lite FM, 820 CHAM and 1150 Oldies. The myHamilton.ca website and eNet website were also used to draw attention to the survey.

A YouTube video featuring Mayor Fred was also developed and made available through City website, and through the Mayor's MySpace site, ([www.myspace.com/fredformayor](http://www.myspace.com/fredformayor).) Links to the YouTube video were sent to area residents by email asking them to share the video link with friends and family.

The voluntary survey asked residents 53 questions organized in five categories:

- Making City Hall Work Better
- Jobs, Growth, and Economic Development
- A Healthy Environment
- A Better Place to Live
- Planning for Our Future

Response to the survey surpassed previous attempts to solicit public input with 987 surveys submitted. Of this total, 26 surveys were discarded as they were submitted by individuals residing outside the City of Hamilton.

**SUBJECT: Survey / Budget Consultation Results (City Wide) Page 2 of 2**  
**March 14, 2007**

Of the responses received, the results of 961 surveys were recorded and are provided in the 'Survey Results' section of the attached report. Each of the five sections also asked the respondent to provide general comments related to the general category of questioning.

The 'Appendix' of the attached report summarizes the comments received. While we removed profanity and repetition, the majority of information is compiled verbatim from survey results.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Eisenberger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor



# Your City Your Future

## **Survey Results**

# Making City Hall Work Better

*Making City Hall work better means making it work smarter. It means learning from our mistakes, and involves spending tax dollars wisely and producing results. Working together, elected officials, city staff and residents can ensure City Hall is citizen-focused, accessible, relevant and effective. To succeed, we need incentives to do the right thing, transparency to ensure the right thing is done, and accountability if the right thing is not done.*

*Honesty, transparency and accountability, in the political process and in how City Hall faces our challenges form the foundation. The overall objective or goal is to promote economic growth and prosperity while enhancing citizens' trust and confidence in their local government. To accomplish our goals, we must focus on delivering quality services in a manner that is effective, efficient and responsible.*

**1)** In the past six months, not including your visit to complete this survey - have you used the hamilton.ca website?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	753	78.36%
No	144	14.98%
No Response	64	6.66%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**2)** Based on your past experience using the Hamilton.ca website, do you find the information contained useful and easy to find?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	546	56.82%
No	233	24.25%
Don't Know	104	10.82%
No Response	78	8.12%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**3)** Two important aspects of promoting any city include making it attractive to business and a destination for tourists. In recent years, cities around the world have developed aggressive marketing strategies highlighting their unique features to the broader community. Should the City develop a marketing strategy to improve our image at the local, regional, national and international level?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	698	72.63%
No	132	13.74%
Don't Know	56	5.83%
No Response	75	7.80%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

4) Of the list below, please identify what you believe are the five **most** important services provided by the city?

Emergency Medical Services	594	13.41
Fire Services	647	14.61
Animal Control	42	0.95
Building Permit Services	44	0.99
Economic Development	342	7.72
Licensing and Bylaw Enforcement	111	2.51
Planning	262	5.92
Public Health	457	10.32
Public Library	274	6.19
Municipal Parking	28	0.63
Police Service	687	15.51
Public Works	418	9.44
School Crossing Guards	32	0.72
Transit	490	11.07
	4428	

5) Of the list below, please identify what you believe are the five **least** important services provided by the city?

Emergency Medical Services	39	1.04
Fire Services	29	0.77
Animal Control	612	16.24
Building Permit Services	496	13.16
Economic Development	174	4.62
Licensing and Bylaw Enforcement	416	11.04
Planning	203	5.39
Public Health	94	2.49
Public Library	226	6.00
Municipal Parking	651	17.28
Police Service	45	1.19
Public Works	84	2.23
School Crossing Guards	575	15.26
Transit	124	3.29
	3768	

**6)** Like other levels of government, municipalities are under pressure to find ways to meet fiscal challenges while delivering quality services to the public. Operational reviews help improve profitability and pinpoint inefficient operations and inadequate systems. Service delivery reviews dig deeper and help those who govern, fund, and provide services to better understand how that service actually operates. Should the City conduct operational and service delivery reviews to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the services and programs provided?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	716	74.51%
No	93	9.68%
Don't Know	69	7.18%
No Response	83	8.63%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**7)** On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the quality of each of the following services?

	<b>Not Satisfied At All 1</b>	<b>Not Satisfied 2</b>	<b>Somewhat Satisfied 3</b>	<b>Very Satisfied 4</b>	<b>Don't Know 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Parks	34	106	437	284	30	891
	3.82%	11.90%	49.05%	31.87%	3.37%	
Traffic	70	169	394	228	26	887
	7.89%	19.05%	44.42%	25.70%	2.93%	
Waste Disposal/Collection	46	83	280	461	22	892
	5.16%	9.30%	31.39%	51.68%	2.47%	
Transit	95	154	324	182	137	892
	10.65%	17.26%	36.32%	20.40%	15.36%	
Road Maintenance	210	296	305	72	10	893
	23.52%	33.15%	34.15%	8.06%	1.12%	
Recreation Programs	26	116	335	236	172	885
	2.94%	13.11%	37.85%	26.67%	19.44%	
Social Services Programs	53	121	281	152	282	889
	5.96%	13.61%	31.61%	17.10%	31.72%	
Public Health	39	79	361	239	166	884
	4.41%	8.94%	40.84%	27.04%	18.78%	
Fire Services	5	11	158	514	200	888
	0.56%	1.24%	17.79%	57.88%	22.52%	
Ambulance	12	16	178	451	228	885
	1.36%	1.81%	20.11%	50.96%	25.76%	
Library	14	43	210	506	114	887
	1.58%	4.85%	23.68%	57.05%	12.85%	
Police	45	70	257	414	106	892
	5.04%	7.85%	28.81%	46.41%	11.88%	

**8)** The City provides residents access to both indoor and outdoor pool facilities. In some cases, the indoor and outdoor pools are located beside each other. When this occurs, would you support closing the outdoor and maintaining the indoor pool to reduce costs?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	550	57.23%
No	255	26.54%
Don't Know	84	8.74%
No Response	72	7.49%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**9)** Of the following, please identify the two **most** important areas you believe require more strict enforcement?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Licensing – building permits, general permits and licenses	480	29.34%
Property Standards – condition of buildings/surrounding property	695	42.48%
Noise Complaints	310	18.95%
Animal Control	151	9.23%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1636</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**10)** Area Rating recognizes the cost of specific programs in different areas of the city and calculates rates for these services depending on the level of service received. For example, if you live in an area that does not receive transit service, you are not charged for this service on your property tax bill.

Would you be willing to pay extra to receive services you don't currently receive under area rating?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	348	36.21%
No	370	38.50%
Don't Know	158	16.44%
No Response	85	8.85%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**11)** Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how to make the City work better.

**[see appendix for responses to this question]**



## Jobs, Growth and Economic Opportunity

*Our ability to deliver quality municipal services depends on adequate tax revenues derived from the properties and businesses in the Greater Hamilton Area. Healthy, thriving businesses improve property values, increase non-residential assessment in our community and provide employment opportunities. The taxes generated by commercial and industrial development help reduce the costs to taxpayers for delivering municipal services.*

*The goal of economic development is to attract new businesses and jobs while at the same time retaining and growing existing business opportunities. In addition, our local economic development division also has a number of responsibilities unique to our City, these include:*

*the Hamilton Film Office; the Small Business Enterprise Center, The Hamilton Incubator of Technology, Brownfield Redevelopment, development and sale of industrial land, collection and publication of economic and business statistics, and the management of the lease agreement for the Hamilton International Airport.*

**1)** Although critically important, Economic Development is one of the smallest divisions in the City in terms of size and budget. Comparing Hamilton to other municipalities, Hamilton spends less per capita on economic development than Burlington, Brantford, Oakville, London, Windsor and Barrie. In fact, on a residential tax bill of three thousand dollars, economic development represents only about six dollars.

Do you think the City should allocate more resources – staff and budget – to economic development for the purpose of attracting and retaining jobs and businesses to the Greater Hamilton Area?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	604	62.85%
No	137	14.26%
Don't Know	64	6.66%
No Response	156	16.23%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100%</i>

**2)** The economic development structure used in Hamilton currently combines economic development with the City's Planning Department. Other municipalities such as Burlington, London, Barrie, Mississauga and Halifax have different structures. Do you think the City should pursue a different economic development structure?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	450	46.83%
No	144	14.98%
Don't Know	207	21.54%
No Response	160	16.65%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**3)** On a scale of 1 to 5 - where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is the lowest - what type of jobs would you like to see Hamilton attract?

	Highest Priority 1	2	3	4	Lowest Priority 5	Total
Advanced Manufacturing	328	223	144	50	42	787
	41.68%	28.34%	18.30%	6.35%	5.34%	
Traditional Manufacturing	129	164	205	137	145	780
	16.54%	21.03%	26.28%	17.56%	18.59%	
Information Technology	401	278	108	23	19	829
	48.37%	33.53%	13.03%	2.77%	2.29%	
Biosciences/Healthcare	550	163	50	20	17	800
	68.75%	20.38%	6.25%	2.50%	2.13%	
Financial and Insurance services	193	207	240	88	49	777
	24.84%	26.64%	30.89%	11.33%	6.31%	
Retail	106	156	276	125	113	776
	13.66%	20.10%	35.57%	16.11%	14.56%	
Transportation	164	186	264	104	53	771
	21.27%	24.12%	34.24%	13.49%	6.87%	
Arts and Culture	231	182	181	91	95	780
	29.62%	23.33%	23.21%	11.67%	12.18%	
Warehousing & Distribution	84	165	251	156	112	768
	10.94%	21.48%	32.68%	20.31%	14.58%	
Education	406	220	103	25	36	790
	51.39%	27.85%	13.04%	3.16%	4.56%	
Food & Beverage Manufacturing	88	168	292	142	84	774
	11.37%	21.71%	37.73%	18.35%	10.85%	

4) On a scale of 1 to 5 - where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is the lowest - where do you think the City should focus on creating employment lands for economic development?

	Highest Priority 1	2	3	4	Lowest Priority 5	Total
Airport Lands	214	142	144	92	194	786
	27.23%	18.07%	18.32%	11.70%	24.68%	
Downtown Hamilton	464	164	94	37	41	800
	58%	20.5%	11.75%	4.625%	5.125%	
Waterfront	280	193	138	87	100	798
	35.09%	24.19%	17.29%	10.90%	12.53%	
Brownfield	330	167	185	59	38	779
	42.36%	21.44%	23.75%	7.57%	4.88%	
Greenfield	79	112	197	120	259	767
	10.30%	14.60%	25.68%	15.65%	33.77%	
McMaster Innovation Park	309	227	163	49	49	797
	38.77%	28.48%	20.45%	6.15%	6.15%	

5) As early as 1994, the Ontario government identified strategic and long-range planning as a critical tool for municipalities to proactively plan their future. Carrying out strategic planning enables municipalities to:

- ❖ address critical issues being faced;
- ❖ establish concrete and measurable short, medium and long-term goals;
- ❖ find innovative ways to achieve goals;
- ❖ decrease instances of crisis management;
- ❖ use resources efficiently and effectively, and
- ❖ anticipate issues and develop policies to meet future needs

Would you support the City of Hamilton dedicating resources – people and money – to ensure effective and thorough long range and strategic planning?

	Responses	Percent
Yes	656	68.26%
No	78	8.12%
Don't Know	67	6.97%
No Response	160	16.65%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**6)** Film and television is a growing industry in Canada. In Ontario, provincial tax credits provide additional incentives for productions filmed outside the Greater Toronto Area. As a result, Hamilton's film industry has experienced significant growth in recent years. Should the city allocate more resources to further develop our film and television industry?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	534	55.57%
No	185	19.25%
Don't Know	86	8.95%
No Response	156	16.23%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**7)** Small and medium enterprises generate more than half the world's jobs. Ontario is no different. According to Statistics Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Finance, half of all jobs in Ontario are located in small business.

As part of the City's economic development strategy, should more resources be allocated to promote retention and development of small and medium sized businesses?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	676	70.34%
No	74	7.70%
Don't Know	52	5.41%
No Response	159	16.55%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**8)** Every dollar spent at a locally owned store is typically spent 6 to 15 times before it leaves the community. From one dollar, you create 5 to 14 dollars in value within the community. On the other hand, for every dollar spent at a national chain, 80 percent leaves town immediately. From an agricultural perspective, buying local can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and packing materials. It also helps make local farming more profitable which makes selling farmland for development less attractive.

Should the City create a 'buy local' awareness campaign or initiative encouraging residents to buy local?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	637	66.29%
No	129	13.42%
Don't Know	40	4.16%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**9)** Hosting regional, national and international sporting events can be prestigious and provides local competitors the distinct advantage of ‘playing at home.’ Considerable social, economic, tourism and development opportunities can also result from attracting these events. Should the City develop a strategy to attract regional, national and international sporting events?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	637	66.29%
No	129	13.42%
Don't Know	40	4.16%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**10)** Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how the City could improve its ability to attract and retain jobs and economic opportunities?  
**[see appendix for responses to this question]**

## A Healthy Environment

*Creating a balance between the economy and the environment is critical for any community to prosper socially and economically. To ensure a bright future for the Greater Hamilton Area, we must recognize that preserving the environment and fostering economic growth are related, not opposing factors.*

*Together, we can meet the challenge by using smart-growth strategies and best management practices to find better, more environmentally sustainable ways to live, work and play. The City of Hamilton recognizes its leadership role in maintaining equilibrium between our infrastructure and natural amenities.*

**1)** During the last term of Council, the City endorsed a Green Fleet Plan for the corporate fleet. As a result, the City now has the largest green fleet of hybrid vehicles in the country. The plan also encouraged the use of bio-diesel and established an anti-idling policy for all city owned vehicles. By reducing the amount of fuel used in City vehicles, we reduce the amount of green house gas produced and released into the atmosphere.

Do you support continuation of this initiative?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	737	76.69%
No	50	5.20%
Don't Know	16	1.67%
No Response	158	16.44%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**2)** To help improve air quality, in 1996 the city of Toronto enacted an anti-idling bylaw. Guelph did the same in 1998, Oakville in 2002 and Burlington in 2005. Hamilton currently has no bylaw in place. Do you support the implementation of a city-wide anti-idling bylaw that would aim to reduce the unnecessary idling of vehicles?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	637	66.29%
No	125	13.00%
Don't Know	39	4.06%
No Response	160	16.65%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

- 3) In 2006, the City created the Office of Energy Initiatives. Activities of this office include:
- ❖ managing the City's Energy portfolio, including the development of purchasing strategies for Natural Gas and Electricity;
  - ❖ developing an Energy Policy for City activities;
  - ❖ implementing Energy Efficient building and retrofit projects;
  - ❖ mentorship of renewable Energy Projects in the City and,
  - ❖ measuring and reporting on dollar savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from City activities and energy consumed.

Savings realized are used to fund staff to develop other energy savings projects and strategies, which ultimately could reduce energy costs for both residents and businesses. Do you support continuation of this initiative?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	716	74.51%
No	46	4.79%
Don't Know	38	3.95%
No Response	161	16.75%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

- 4) Energy from Waste, (thermal treatment of waste with energy & metal recovery) is being considered as a way to handle left-over waste after diversion which could help extend the life of the Glanbrook Landfill Site.

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I support the City pursuing this option	710	73.88%
I would rather the City find a new landfill site in Hamilton	36	3.75%
I would rather the City export its waste to another jurisdiction	32	3.33%
No Response	183	19.04%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

- 5) The City of Hamilton has set a target of 65 percent waste diversion from landfill in order to extend the life of the Glanbrook Landfill Site. This target requires 9 of every 10 households to recycle 9 of every 10 pop cans and put 9 of every 10 banana peels into the Green Cart.

What would motivate you and your household the most to reduce waste, recycle and compost?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Doing my part to protect the environment	543	56.50%
Potential fines	43	4.48%
Having to pay for waste to be collected if I have more than the garbage quantity limit	183	19.04%
Nothing	32	3.33%
No Response	160	16.65%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**6)** As part of waste collection services, the City currently provides collection of bulk goods, (furniture and appliances.) There are many options available for reuse of bulk goods but, if collected, they go directly to the landfill. Do you support the existing bulk program or would you support a user fee for the collection of bulk goods?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I support the existing program	150	15.61%
I do not support the existing program	56	5.83%
I support a user fee for bulk good pickup	335	34.86%
I do not support a user fee for bulk good pickup	246	25.60%
No Response	174	18.10%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**7)** Although non-chemical maintenance practices are available, pesticides are commonly used for the maintenance of lawns, gardens, golf courses and parks. Citing potential health risks, municipalities across North America have recently passed by-laws that either ban or limit the cosmetic use of pesticides. Do you support the elimination of cosmetic pesticides on private and public property?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	589	61.29%
No	159	16.55%
Don't Know	50	5.20%
No Response	163	16.96%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**8)** If you support eliminating the use of cosmetic pesticides on private and public property, would you support exempting lands used in agriculture and/or sports fields?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	334	34.76%
No	375	39.02%
No Response	252	26.22%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**9)** Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how the City could create a healthier environment?

**[see appendix for responses to this question]**



## A Better Place to Live

*The Greater Hamilton Area is a community of communities. Together, our urban and rural areas form an integral part of our local history and identity. Our city has enviable beauty that others only dream of - the Niagara Escarpment, Bruce Trail, our waterfront and many other features are natural showcases.*

*Together, we have a unique opportunity in the months and years ahead to make Hamilton a better place to live and work. Each of us has a role to play. Businesses can take further steps to protect our environment and give-back to our community. As residents, we can demonstrate our social conscience by showing consideration for our friends and neighbours. Our local media can help foster a positive environment by continuing to showcase the good things happening in our community. Our elected representatives, can work together at all levels of government to ensure City Hall has the financial resources needed to provide the services we all expect.*

**1)** In 2005, the City initiated 'Trees across Hamilton', a city-wide tree planting program that has since planted thousands of trees across the city. Should the city continue to fund and devote resources for this planting program?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	722	75.13%
No	49	5.10%
Don't Know	32	3.33%
No Response	158	16.44%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**2)** The City has a program to fund planting of flowers in traffic islands across the city. Since 2003, the funding for this program has been reduced in order to save money. City Council is now considering reinstating full funding for this program to improve our traffic islands. Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I agree with the full reinstatement of this program at an approximate cost of \$285,000	432	44.95%
I am satisfied with the current level of program funding	231	24.04%
I would prefer the elimination of the program and the reinstatement of hard surfaced islands	137	14.26%
No Response	161	16.75%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100%</i>

**3)** The Greater Hamilton Area has a tremendous outdoor trail system that includes the Escarpment Trail, Bruce Trail, Waterfront & Beach Trails and the RBG Trails. Our trail system provides residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, explore the city, and promotes a healthy lifestyle. Should the city allocate resources to promote our trail system?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	623	64.83%
No	134	13.94%
Don't Know	49	5.10%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**4)** In 2003, the City eliminated funding for a shrub bed maintenance program aimed at parks. Since then the condition of park shrub bed features has deteriorated considerably. Which of the following statements do you most agree with:

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I agree with the full reinstatement of program funding in the approximate amount of \$300,000	470	48.91%
I am satisfied with the status quo and the current condition of shrub bed features in municipal parks	316	32.88%
No response	175	18.21%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**5)** The City has set a 65 percent waste diversion target to reduce the amount of waste sent to our landfill. Recycling is an important part of achieving this target, yet it is not available at all our municipal parks. Which of the following statements do you most agree with:

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I agree with the full implementation of a recycling program in all municipal parks at a total cost of approximately \$304, 250	542	56.40%
I am satisfied with the current single stream collection in municipal parks with an appeal (public awareness) calling for citizens to assume personal responsibility for recycling their own waste and take it home	255	26.53%
No response	164	17.07%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**6)** The Greater Hamilton Area is home to a vibrant and growing cultural scene. From visual and performing artists, to amateur and professional sports we have a great deal to offer. Should the city allocate resources to promote our culture, heritage, art and sporting opportunities to both area residents and tourists?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	534	55.57%
No	184	19.15%
Don't Know	85	8.84%
No Response	158	16.44%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**7)** Statistics Canada estimates that nearly 100,000 residents of our community, that's 1 in 5 people, live at or below the poverty line. Do you believe the city should allocate resources in order to make poverty reduction a main civic priority, even if this leads to a moderate increase in property taxes?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	450	46.83%
No	273	28.41%
Don't Know	83	8.64%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**8)** Our city is world-renowned for its innovative Health-Sciences sector. However, based on the number of doctors who bill OHIP for patient visits, Hamilton has a shortage of practicing doctors – nearly 30,000 residents do not have a family doctor. Should the city spend money to recruit doctors to help alleviate the doctor shortage?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	522	54.32%
No	186	19.35%
Don't Know	96	9.99%
No Response	157	16.34%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**9)** Emergency Medical Services (ambulance services) is one of the most important essential services provided by the City. In the past 12 months have you had any interaction with the city's emergency medical services?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	173	18.00%
No	633	65.87%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**10)** Emergency Medical Services are geographically distributed across the city based on 18 staffed ambulances during the day and 12 at night. If you answered yes to the above, are you satisfied with current ambulance response times?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	163	16.96%
No	46	4.79%
Don't Know	277	28.82%
No Response	475	49.43%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100%</i>

**11)** Another essential service provided by the City is Fire Protection Services. In the past 12 months have you had any interaction with the city's fire services?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	106	11.03%
No	701	72.94%
No Response	154	16.03%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**12)** If you answered yes to the above, are you satisfied with current fire services response times?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	112	11.65%
No	18	1.87%
Don't Know	263	27.37%
No Response	568	59.11%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**13)** Currently, the City provides three different levels of fire protection services - volunteer, full-time or a combination of both – these reflect the service levels that existed pre-amalgamation. Taxpayers pay only for the level of service they receive either volunteer, full-time or a combination of both. Would you support higher taxes to standardize service levels in the urban (full-time) and rural (volunteer) areas across the city?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	125	13.01%
No, retain current service levels	299	31.11%
Don't Know	108	11.24%
No Response	115	11.97%
Erroneous responses received prior to correction of question text*	314	32.67%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

*\*responses to this question received before 1:15pm on February 13, 2007 were not included in the final results due to an inaccuracy in the question text. This inaccuracy was corrected and implemented at 1:16pm, February 13<sup>th</sup>.*

**14)** Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how to make the Greater Hamilton Area a better place to live.  
**[see appendix for responses to this question]**

## Planning for Our Future

*Despite unique identities, geographic spread and differing economies, cities all over the world are facing a fundamental shift economically and demographically. By 2030, it is predicted that 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities. To plan for tomorrow, the leaders of cities everywhere are focusing now on formulating sustainable strategies for the future.*

*As more people move to urban areas, new infrastructure and services will be required and old infrastructure will need to be replaced. With growing demand on diminishing revenue sources, older cities - like Hamilton - will need to find creative and flexible financial methods to address the challenges in planning for the future.*

*The decisions and priorities we establish today will have an impact on how successful our community will be in the years ahead. In order for the Greater Hamilton Area to be vibrant and successful in the future, we must have a clear vision of how we grow, invest, and implement services.*

**1)** Public transit is an important part of Hamilton’s transportation network. In the past twelve months, have you used Hamilton transit – Hamilton Street Railway (HSR)?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	418	43.50%
No	388	40.37%
No Response	155	16.13%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**2)** Should investment in Public Transit be a priority for the City of Hamilton?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	579	60.25%
No	133	13.84%
Don't Know	93	9.68%
No Response	156	16.23%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**3)** If the City makes investment in Public Transit a priority, where would you prefer the increased funding to come from?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Increase to property taxes	323	33.61%
Increase to bus fares	461	47.97%
No Response	177	18.42%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**4)** Municipalities levy development charges as the main way of raising the money needed for required infrastructure to supply city services to new developments. Do you think that development charges, paid by developers, should cover the full cost of the required infrastructure and services needed or should taxpayers pay on an ongoing basis?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	498	51.82%
No	65	6.76%
Don't Know	197	20.50%
No Response	201	20.92%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**5)** The City has financed more than \$400 million to construct the new Red Hill Valley Parkway. Many jurisdictions use highway tolls to cover the cost of new construction and remove the tolls once the highway is paid for. To cover construction costs, would you support making the Red Hill Valley Parkway a city-owned toll highway or would you rather pay the construction costs through your property tax bill?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes, toll all vehicles	368	38.29%
Yes, toll commercial vehicles only	219	22.79%
No, I'd rather pay for construction costs through property taxes	152	15.82%
Don't Know	54	5.62%
No Response	168	17.48%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100%</i>

Responses supporting tolling Red Hill Valley Parkway	587	61.08%
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**6)** In recent years, growth of the Greater Hamilton Area has come largely at the expense of prime agricultural land in our rural areas. Do you support initiatives aimed at protecting our agricultural land by limiting urban sprawl and focusing growth to the downtown core, brown fields and within existing urban boundaries?

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	701	72.95%
No	65	6.76%
Don't Know	33	3.43%
No Response	162	16.86%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**7)** Research shows that a healthy and vibrant downtown boosts the economic health and quality of life in a community. Specifically, it creates jobs, nurtures small businesses, reduces sprawl, increases the amount of property taxes collected, protects property values, and increases the community's options for goods and services.

Signs of renewal in the downtown Hamilton core are evident, but there is still much more to do. On a scale of 1 to 5 - where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is the lowest - indicate the areas you think the City should allocate more resources to help renew the downtown core.

	Highest Priority 1	2	3	4	Lowest Priority 5	Total
Improved Street Cleaning	166	186	257	106	76	791
	20.99%	23.51%	32.49%	13.40%	9.61%	
Improved perception of public safety	410	198	112	50	34	804
	51.00%	24.63%	13.93%	6.22%	4.23%	
Increase financial incentives to encourage private sector development	142	227	144	53	54	620
	22.90%	36.61%	23.23%	8.55%	8.71%	
Increase festivals, events and entertainment	204	252	194	86	65	801
	25.47%	31.46%	24.22%	10.74%	8.11%	
Attraction of educational institutions to downtown	280	258	169	59	36	802
	34.91%	32.17%	21.07%	7.36%	4.49%	
Improved Transit	273	178	202	80	64	797
	34.25%	22.33%	25.35%	10.04%	8.03%	

**8)** Studies on downtown revitalization have shown that businesses are often more comfortable and familiar working in suburban areas than downtown. However, downtowns have an advantage over suburban areas in terms of their historical value and compact, walking-friendly size. Experts in downtown renewal agree that a strong revitalization plan must provide guidance with respect to parking and parking areas. Would you support providing free parking downtown after 5pm on weekdays and all weekend long at all city lots and meters?

	Responses	Percent
Yes	694	72.22%
No	71	7.39%
Don't Know	33	3.43%
No Response	163	16.96%
<i>Total</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

**9)** Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on ways the City can better plan for the future?

[see appendix for responses to this question]



# Your City Your Future

## **Appendix**



# Making City Hall Work Better

*Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how to make City Hall work better.*

## Responses

Keep the politicians out of the day to day workings of staff many departments are grossly disorganized, new effective managers are required every line in the budget has to be reviewed, if we are short of cash then there is no point spending it on the arts etc, we are not prepared to cut the lawns in our parks.

Question 6 makes it sound like you're operating a Corporation for profit not a City providing services to all and 'operational reviews' would not provide good morale to staff.

Spruce up the dismal looking City by bringing back the flower-filled medians. Stop wasting money on surveys, outside consultants, independent reviews etc instead of making management responsible for doing their jobs. Make downtown a people place again by cleaning it up and having events that bring people downtown.

After amalgamation there was a commitment to improving customer service, including a policy calling for city staff to return calls within one working day. It quietly disappeared as it was obviously not working. Some staff are great but far too many don't return calls and a few treat you as a nuisance. Fix it please!

I live in Carlisle and have some of the highest tax rates in the Area - I can afford to pay for my house but am struggling to pay for the huge increases in tax we are being asked to pay for just because property valuations are increasing (25% increase in 06-7 - am now paying almost \$8,000 per year) - not something we can control. We also have poor services because we are so far away from Hamilton- police can take 20 minutes to reach us, library is pathetic (even in Waterdown) and we have no transit - not that I would want that as we would just have to pay more in tax which I could not afford. City Council needs to operate its services more efficiently so that Flamborough does not continue to get bled dry to pay for inner city needs.

If the city would attract more business, the tax burdens would be less on the residential tax. If I send a request through the city email system, it shouldn't take 5 weeks for someone to respond to me!! I put the same question through to the Halton Region and I received a response the next day.

Obtain and follow up on input from front-line workers to improve service and reduce costs. Greatly strengthen the role of city auditor and ensure comprehensive value for money audits are performed and benchmark Hamilton performance against other North American cities of different sizes.

**RESIDENTS THAT RESIDE IN RURAL AREAS AND PAY FOR SERVICES THEY DO NOT RECEIVE (I.E SEWERS, FIRE (RURAL HAVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS)) SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM ON THEIR PROPERTY TAXES!!**

We need to ensure a proper frame work for our rural people, make sure they are not forgotten. Rural properties do not have the same level of services that occur in the city.

Stop wasting money! City employees waste hours each day and this is very visible to the public. Many programs are just wasting money by giving city employees something to do. They work at such a slow pace that they would be fired in any private business.

I was just in downtown Hamilton the other day; I must tell you that I was disgusted by the garbage that I saw on the streets and the disrepair of buildings. How are you going to get anyone to invest in this city when you can't even present a positive face?

Climate change studies should be funded in this year's budget. Budget should also cover 2nd report recommended in The Electric City report by Richard Gilbert.

I am stumped as to why there are no fire hydrants for Flamborough Centre residents but 3 kms south in Waterdown they do have hydrants- I feel as though existing lots should be given fire protection before new developments are approved and allowed to jump the line due to location and the high density of buildings. I also find it a bit frustrating that we only have street lights in our neighbourhood- no sewers or sidewalks etc- but when we call to report a bulb burnt out it has been over 5 months and it is not changed!

A recreation centre with swimming pool in Flamborough would be nice. Transit service has not significantly changed with the growth of the city. Transit does not reflect growth in the outline areas, the airport etc. Transit does not meet the need to carry bikes up and down the escarpment.

Why drive downtown and receive a \$50 parking fine when I can shop and park for free on the mountain.

More co-operation among Councillors to promote the city as a whole, not just a ward boss mentality and looking out for one's self to the detriment of the city as a whole.

Be open and honest. Do away with the old boys' club style of control. Try new ways and listen to new council members. Don't do the same old since we have been doing that for years and years. Time to move forward with positive vision thinking.

I feel that the biggest issue facing me as a resident of Waterdown is transit. We need a bus to link us with Hamilton, pollution is a serious issue. You would be amazed by the number of cars with McMaster University parking passes hanging from their rearview mirrors in town, and those are only some of the people who go to Hamilton on a daily basis. Coach Canada service may be underused because it is infrequent and expensive but the HSR would be used, especially by those people traveling to McMaster as the students have already paid for an HSR pass in their tuition. Furthermore seniors and people with disabilities need to be able to access the hospital even if they are unable to drive. Car's pollution must be reduced by expanding transit.

For the Waterdown area:

- (especially the areas outside of the village), have some sort of public transit alternatives, bike lanes/paths
- add public bike racks in the village
- provide WIFI hotspots in village core
- provide wireless hubs for rural areas without access to cable or high-speed Internet
- promote businesses locating in area (NOT JUST IN DOWNTOWN HAMILTON)

We need a bus service from Waterdown to McMaster University at least in the morning and at night.

Long-serving city Councillors need to concentrate more on the city as a whole and not merely their individual wards. The barriers between wards must come down, and behind-the-scenes vote-trading must be stopped. At the same time, Councillors must be more responsive to their ward constituents' needs. They need to be much more respectful and accessible. They need to respond to questions and problems more quickly. This applies particularly to Ward 15.

The view of the downtown core is improving as the city continues to improve its overall look. However, there are many abandoned buildings and unsightly properties that make even the proudest Hamiltonian look away and possibly travel elsewhere to shop and even work. I feel that there should be standards set and enforced to make Hamilton as a whole a nicer cleaner community, to attract those who work, visit, and reside.

Perception is the city is run by people who don't know HOW to be fiscally accountable. Money spent is not theirs so it doesn't matter... we can develop mechanisms to monitor, but this is only further waste as these people are no better...

All and all, an OK place - other than Animal Control being run by animal hating individuals....Not exactly comforting.

Extremely poor sidewalk maintenance (next to non-existent on HWY 20 east side). Many landlords still have in their leases that tenants maintain smoke detectors. This I believe is against the Ontario Fire Code. Not all apartment buildings have inspection certificates in their elevators. These point to inspection / building code violations.

My displeasure with the myHamilton.ca web site is not due to its content but because I find it difficult to navigate thru. I am a frequent web user and can only imagine issues that less frequent users would encounter.

Bring the flowers back to the medians... Stop putting stop signs and traffic lights at every intersection. More public garbage and recycling bins needed throughout the city, not just downtown. Enhance public transit. Keep the city clean it's filthy all over the place. Cut the grass and weeds on public areas more often... develop the east end beach area like you did with pier 24 and harbourfront park... we deserve it!!!! Fix the roads the potholes and cracks in the drive lanes look like crap and the cars just take a beating... allow more public open outdoor patios where it can be done and streetscaping looks great.. A place that looks like Burlington will bring more business as long as you continue good business tax practices... thanks Ed

Hospitals should not charge parking fees. i.e. St. Joe's emergency parking is expensive: too high. EMERGENCY/HEALTH ISSUE: not really wanting to be there in the first place. We need change/money. Very exasperating and maddening once you realize the cost. By-law; Decrease #'s except offences for parking in emergency areas, fire hydrants, disabled areas. Private streets should not be monitored & parking allowed. We have a drive that houses 2 vehicles, but own 3 & sometimes 4...we try to park one behind the other, wheels may hang on sidewalk. Parking should be allowed on streets overnight. #9-NO MORE strict enforcement is required in any of the listed areas.

Public works is important - the Red Hill Creek Expressway is a money pit that SHOULD NOT waste any more of our taxes in legal or consulting fees. Since all the cities merged, I have found that we have fewer services i.e. recreations, busing, garbage collection yet I do not believe that we get the services that we would have gotten had we lived in the core of the city.

Need recycling bins at area parks and municipal facilities. Need to improve walkways through parks (add bark chips or stone dust as they are very muddy in the spring). Many of our parks are overused by user groups such as soccer clubs and the fields are getting destroyed. They should be paying higher fees to help improve the facilities. Need to improve the streetscape with landscaping.

We need a review of the planning and development department. It seems that our city is working for the developers. We have areas ESA or NEP are now appropriate for development. We have studies, plans and concrete maps that have been ignored and utilized on the whim of staff. We need to enforce the PPS, NEP, secondary plans and start infilling. Expanding the urban boundaries have got to be the last resort not the first solution. We need more imagination in our planning and development instead of constantly looking to our green fields to solve our housing/economic problems.

Would like to see more attention paid to areas that have been absorbed by Hamilton. Areas like Winona and Dundas. We are ignored when it comes to monies spent on services like policing and parks and tourism promotion. We feel like an after thought. Would also like to see more concern in preserving the natural environment in these more rural areas. Would like to see more thought go into the urban planning of areas such as reopening the road allowance (Lladro and Peach tree) off of Winona road so that there would be access to the lands South of highway 8 between Winona rd and Fifty road, so that this parcel is not land locked. Like to see more thought into aesthetics when developing. Larger lots are more attractive instead of town houses.

De-amalgamate the city back to the original municipalities

Operational reviews - support as long as they are efficient and cost effective (often they are too expensive). Overall - Hamilton needs to redefine and promote itself more - aspects like our natural history and heritage should be a big part of this strategy, as should revitalizing the downtown core and bay/lakefront (Burlington always seems to get it right - e.g. new skating rink at Spencer's). Ask someone outside of Hamilton about us - and they think steel. This is only one aspect though - we need to promote the university, escarpment trails, museums, gallery, cultural diversity etc. much more!! This will make Hamilton more attractive to business and residents. Since the merger - we seem to have lost a sense of what makes us distinct and interesting,

As we all know that Hamilton City is has one of the highest City Tax bill. I would be grateful to see my property tax bill reduced to at least be on the same level as Burlington and Oakville. At the moment with no public transit to this area we are already paying well above.

Thanks and keep up the good work

Enter cost sharing/maintenance of our parks with citizens, i.e.: I get to name the park if I maintain for a set period.

Stop doing things we can hire out cheaper than doing in house.

Sell all the golf courses we do not need to own something available and profitable in the private sector and loose taxpayers money on it. There are plenty of golf courses in the area and if sold these would go from three to two. Still enough around.

City of Hamilton Planning Department is advanced in managing the city into the future, yet it's one of the least funded departments in the city. Their shoe string budget makes it difficult to maintain the level of service required to manage our growing city. Increase funding in the Planning Department so they can do their jobs.

We owe it to future generations to have a triple bottom line that actually works - currently it is weighted heavily towards economic considerations. All that work on Vision 2020 by volunteers on behalf of the city, at it was poorly incorporated into City business and then twisted into the Grids process. Sprawl will happen, but we need to develop Brownfield's and downtown - specifically, we have to find ways to make them more attractive to business. Not all is bad - I love this town, but we have much work to do. Very impressed with the new Mayor and he seems to be directing Council in a positive direction.

I live 4 doors from a public school I wish to see more police presence. There is a stop sign in front of the school which is ignored by many motorists. I see it daily; also the teenage children that have parties in the school grounds are just way too much. Also the high school is behind me & the teens are hanging around there all the time too with their music very loud & they drive around the parking lot like it was a race track. With the party gang we find all kinds of beer bottles & various liquor bottles on the playground. I wish something could be done.

Actually have the police respond to calls what is the point of making paper work and reports and then an officer is never in the area, why should I waste my valuable time. Help the elderly that need it, stop the games, if you ask someone how do you feel and they say oh I'm fine why do they get terminated from social services that is not fair. They need help why the play on words this needs to be reviewed.

I think you should make an effort to enforce the bylaws and respond a lot faster to complaints when people are parking their cars where they block access to fire hydrants etc. I realize this is only a crucial issue to those of us who have lost everything in house fires.

While the website is better than most, it deteriorated sharply when it was combined with other sites into the myhamilton site.

This is a difficult survey to complete and is poorly designed. Circumstances vary by neighbourhood and need (e.g. pool question). You are also comparing apples and oranges by asking us to rate the importance of hard and soft services. Not sure that the answers you receive will prove helpful. Great idea to get input from the community but this may not be the best way to do it.

The city needs to review its processes, many current strategies aren't working, and dollars are being spent on the wrong things. Start some committees with younger Hamiltonians (20-30) to get some fresh ideas. I'll volunteer!!

My recycling is never picked up; they will pick up my entire side of the street, but not mine. I use 2 blue bins and have them separated and bundled, when I realize they have not taken mine yet again, I pick it up and put it at the end of the driveway of my neighbour across the street, it is always picked up there. And the recycling guys always throw my blue bins and now they are broken and cracked. I do not think that the city employees are grateful for their jobs and perhaps some consideration training should be mandatory. I should not have to pay for waste removal on my property taxes if it is not being collected properly.

I feel that the noise by-laws need to be better policed. I cannot seem to get a hold of anyone with my complaint unless it is Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30. Most noise complaints occur at night.

I think paying so much of my paycheck to so many people on public works that are frauds is ridiculous. When I was young my family was on it and it was strict. You had house visits had to provide proper proof that your children were enrolled in school. None of that is necessary now. I know a woman who was on it did not pay her rent for 6 months, did not have a working fridge or stove for her children and was even receiving money for a child not enrolled in school or even registered in the city. How right is this? Our city really needs to look this over.

The myhamilton.ca website is very hard to navigate and there are way too many things on the main page, I don't know where to look!

Please lower our residential taxes. Compared to other cities like Oakville, we are OVER PAYING for the services we get.

I moved to Stoney Creek in Fall 2000. Since then, my taxes have DOUBLED!! Not only unbelievable, completely UNACCEPTABLE - especially in light of the money wasted by the city on.... (Fill latest fiasco here). This city has been run by a bunch of jokers for 7 years and Mr. Fred's latest explanation of the License department indicates that he is on the same path as the rest of them. When will city hall get their act together and treat the citizen's tax money as if it was coming out of their own pocket!!

Overall, I am content with the way our city operates and do not have any specific thoughts around how to better it.

Hamilton Challenger Baseball provides an opportunity for disabled children and adults the ability to play at various levels. All we ask of our City is to provide a safe, wheelchair accessible park with a minimum of three diamonds to play multiple nights of the week. Wheelchair parking, a drop off for DARTS and HSR access would be appreciated. For many years, members of our Executive have negotiated with City staff and have been offered many options, all to be available "in a few years". Why? What is the problem? How can we find a solution in a timely manner? With over 100 players, this organization has provided these services on a volunteer basis with donations from the community. All we need is the space!

Increase user fees.

My grandfather, father & wife work(ed) for the City what makes feel upset is listening to the mismanagement of the tax dollars.

Fred E I hopefully can see a glimmer of new hope, but the old cronies are still at work. The unanimous vote re Morrelli is a farce after firing non political people. City councilors should only be allowed to sit 2 terms on the same dept. i.e. policing or licensing, new faces new ideas.

I would like the city to concentrate on "the basics". Basically, roads, sewer, transit, things like that. Hamilton is a poor city, and we cannot afford frills like other cities, i.e. Toronto.....as the province doesn't pour money in here like they do there. This is just a fact of life, and so we have to live within our means. Ever increasing property taxes in a poor city like ours will mean more seniors will lose their homes, or have to move away.

We need more family housing in the down town area.

Definitely improve transit to all areas and decrease the cost to make it a more economically viable option for people, which also helps the environment. To do this add 1cent to each liter of gas. Also increase accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists especially in the new sub-divisions. All roads need to have a sidewalk.

Tell Me How I'm Measured and I Tell You How I Behave, this statement is used in business for to outline how depart./managers/employees will behave because of how they are measured. I don't how accountability is measured at City Hall. City Hall has in past had many issues and needs to assure the public that its house is in Order, citizen will feel somewhat better if costs are being managed. Public companies are facing Bill 198, City hall should have some controls in place, monitored, reported and updated & communicated to the public. Identify high risk areas & perform audits, findings & recommendations. To Often I hear of how someone at City hall has used City assets, funds or somehow taken advantage of lose controls to their benefit.

I am not sure if I currently pay for services that I don't receive. However, I am of the mind set that if everyone contributed something then the burden is less for everyone.

Parking availability at no cost at the downtown GO station should be addressed

EFFICIENT AND KNOWLEGDABLE EMPLOYEES AND MANAGEMENT. PROMOTE AND HIRE FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY. NEPOTISM AND UNFAIR HIRING PRACTICES AT ALL LEVELS ARE A DETRIMENT TO THE OPERATION OF THE CITY. THE INCOMPETENT AND UNQUALIFIED EMPLOYEES, AT ALL LEVELS, MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CITY TO FUNCTION. IF HIRING PRACTICES WERE DONE PROPERLY AND FAIRLY, AND GOOD WORKERS AND COMPETENT PEOPLE WERE PROMOTED AND NOT ALWAYS BEING SCREENED OUT FROM JOBS, THE CITY WOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION. THE FAVORITISM, NEPOTISM, AND DISCRIMINATION THAT IS STILL RAMPANT IN THIS CORPORATION, IS SIMPLY ASTONISHING. SUBSTANDARD EMPLOYEES EQUALS SUBSTANDARD RESULTS, WHICH ARE SEEN ON A DAILY BASIS. THE ROOT CAUSE IS HIRING PRACTICES."

Police do not patrol our neighbourhood (Gage park area-Ottawa) many cars stolen. Roads are substandard. Dangerous driving practices in city including police put us at risk. Substandard housing not dealt with effectively. Corruption at city hall... wasteful, and unaccountable unless media gets involved.

Budgets are difficult and it was hard for me to choose what is LEAST important. I think you need to make decisions with Vision 2020 in mind and, of course, the triple bottom line. I'm sure there are efficiencies needed but I think enough studies have been done. Let's have an auditor make sure people are held accountable for the decisions they make. I think you'll see departments work efficiently if their job and/or reputation are on the line.

Encouraging the downtown to be a destination point for the arts, music, etc. There are now a number of art galleries on James St. Encouraging rehabilitation of old buildings to use as music, dance, and artists studios. These supported by independent restaurants.

Remove all unneeded ALL way stops in city especially ward 3 and 4.

Improve traffic flow instead of chocking it off and frustrating drivers. e.g. installing a pedestrian crosswalk that backs up traffic through a round about.

Let traffic department put in traffic devices that meet provincial standards instead of an idiot Councillor who is only concerned about votes from people on his low intellectual level.

Improve traffic safety by enforcement instead of installing unenforceable traffic devices. Use technology that doesn't stop traffic when no vehicles and or pedestrian are at the intersection. Spend money wisely instead, e.g. road maintenance instead of Councillor's pet projects to get votes that does nothing towards the city.

I believe those who use certain facilities should bear most of the burden of maintaining them, i.e. user fees. I am a great user of the library and would willing pay a fee of \$10 or \$25 per year for a library card.

Under Transit - more specifically Accessible Transit needs expanding

Elect politicians at large so they work to enhance city as a whole, instead of just worrying about their wards.

Less over-ruling of staff by politicians on issues like useless stop signs.

More strategic planning to use our money more wisely, with a long-term vision.

Get control of city unions. I rarely see city workers that don't appear to be working ineffectively. City workers actually drive across the playground of my child's school (often during school hours, when kids are on the grounds!) to pick up one bag of garbage from a garbage can. Do we really need two people in a truck to pick up a small bag of garbage? And couldn't they park the truck on the street (and actually turn it off!) and walk over to pick up the bag?

First why start another expense to market Hamilton. Put the money into Hamilton and it can market itself. Give us the attractions. Wow Dundurn Castle. We need cheap things to show our relatives that come from Europe. They can see steel mills in Birmingham. As for reviews, what a joke, any employee or manager should know their department and the expectations of a taxpayer as they are citizens too. Many studies or reviews are self serving or flawed. We need customer feedback ask the people of Hamilton or end users. Try driving over the Skyway into Hamilton and what would be your impression. We pay taxes and most of it is intangible police, fire and garbage pick-up. Maybe another 600 stop signs for east Hamilton.

I think the saddest thing in this City are the homeless people. We need to do more to help these people find permanent homes/shelter. I work in a medical facility in the north end and I have become more aware of this situation in working here for the past two years. I find this so sad.

Working in a health centre in the north end of the city I have become aware of this in the past few years. I am concerned about questions 4 & 5 and what you will do with that information. Just because I say that there are 5 least important services doesn't meet they are not important--frankly I chose those because it is difficult for me to see how they directly affect me. Who would say that fire, police and ambulance are not important?

Whenever I call the city hall phone number I always get a runaround from the operator or when I am connected to another person the phone disconnects when answered---this a good place to improve communication with your tax paying citizens.



With regards to making the City work better. I would like to see a far more simplified process regarding municipal tendering. The current process is too difficult and lengthy for the average small business. Hamilton needs to work more closely with the various small businesses within our community. Hamilton is no longer driven by large corporations as there are not many left. My strongest views is that small business is becoming the back-bone of our community and local economy

I believe that the impression of the city when you drive around determines the image that you carry around with you of what the city is. Is it clean? Is it beautiful? Is it safe? Etc. When you go to sell your property, people advise you to spruce up your place, make it look better, make it clean, etc. and it will sell better. Is the city not in the business of selling itself? Put the flowers back in the medians and surrounding areas and let's spruce up the city to create a better impression. When you improve you own image you always feel better about yourself, likewise the city! It is not a large portion of the budget, so I feel we would get a big bang for our bucks! I am deeply disappointed regarding all of the problems arising between Council and the various departments. The part that upsets me the most is the fact that we are barely into a new term with such serious issues developing on what appears to be a daily basis.

Hamilton Webpage: Find it to be cumbersome at times; not knowing where to look or what key words will get me there. I think the problem is probably with the key words used by the web authors. Marketing Strategy: 1st I think we need to work on our own communities and see to it they are on board. If you can't convince the local community, how are you going to romance the rest of the province/country? Not unlike the employee project going on now to draw the new and the skilled, we need to clean up our own act before it will be attractive to others.

There are several areas that drastically need improvement. Emphasis on internal (City Owned) cultural sites such as the Museums, etc needs WAY more attention then external sites (such as Art Gallery of Hamilton). The funding it received under the previous council/mayor was UNBELIEVABLE. Please place more funding for repairing, staffing and maintaining these beautiful sites before they are lost forever. Also Animal Control is a major issue for me, because my daughter was attacked by dogs last year and nothing was done. It took another child getting SERIOUSLY hurt by this same dog for anything to be done. That whole area needs a good cleaning up. Reassess the rules/by-laws need addressing.

City council is an embarrassment, elected officials police themselves, and this is not a functional structure. Childish, self serving out of public control. We also have concerns for the Police Services and their lack of professionalism and integrity. The public has little respect and no confidence in this organization.

I had a difficult time answering #5. I think they're all important parts of our community and so I choose not to answer. But about the Hamilton BEACH....please rake the beach this year! I happen to love walking along the lake and I enjoy sitting by the water as well, as do many Hamiltonians. But the beach needs some major improvements!!!!!! Get a team together and clean the beach please.

Persons choosing to live in sprawl suburbs should pay higher taxes to subsidize the true cost of adding infrastructure to service their neighborhood.

Public Transit should be free in the downtown core (see Portland Oregon model)

Public consultation; more direct consultation with neighbourhood associations (as police services have been doing in the north end over the last several months)

Hamilton is a diamond in the rough... it's about time someone polished her again and made her shine.

I'm not sure why public health is involved in mental health care but they are doing the worst job compared to other municipalities. Incompetence, lack of ethics, professionalism and not adhering to provincial acts is appalling. The women's shelters are a complete joke - especially Mary's Place and Good Shepherd H.O.M.E.S. which has some sort of bizarre relationship with the city. I understand from the Minister of Community and Social Services that Mary's Place is run by the City - and it shows. I don't think I have enough space to list the problems but fraud is one, deceit in the collection and disclosure of personal health information is another, staff illegally identifying themselves as social workers or social service workers and jus

Recruit, hire and retain highly qualified and skilled city staff. Make high quality service delivery a priority - create and maintain a workplace culture that strives to serve the public well.

Limit the number of terms that councillors may run (we need some new voices on council).

Hamilton is a good city but the down town has too many problem areas the crime is a true problem. Poor people also need help that they not getting. The schools need better funding are kids can't go out to play because play grounds are ice covered and the school does not have funding to put salt on them so for the last 2 weeks they spend all there time indoors Since the City paid for the Red Hill Expressway, it should be a toll road and each taxpayer should receive a reasonable number of free tokens each year, symbolic of their equity in the project. Every one else using our road should contribute to its construction.

State of the art public transit. Efficient use of already developed land and brown fields before expanding into further urban sprawl. Smoother and safer traffic flow: slow down the main arteries while removing unnecessary stoppages everywhere. Rational timing to stoplights.

Serious and coherent environmental policy.

Within the city, all people should have a library within walking distance. there should be hours which include mornings afternoons and weekends. n for instance, the Picton library is either open from 1-5 or 4-8 on Mon-Thurs.

There are no morning hours or weekend hours. This makes it difficult for families with young children to use.

Families with children would also be better served if our parks had bathrooms that were open year round.. if the parks are open year round so should the bathrooms."

More bike lanes, less urban highways (ie four lanes one way through neighbourhoods) more and better transit options, less sprawl, more intensification of housing. fewer power centres for shopping.

I would like to see people that screw up at city hall not walkway with a win fall after they have screwed the good people of this city out of money or time.

More leash free dog parks and stricter laws on animals not licensed

I would only suggest that for consistency in the police services that the police officer in charge of specific wards stays consistent. When you change up the police rep for particular wards you lose the relationship with the neighbourhoods. It also does not allow the police to take ownership of the problems or positives.

Become more active in reaching and following through on actions. Reduce the committee time. Include more opportunities for public involvement/ reduce City control and work with neighbourhood/ community groups.

Improvement in providing recreational services for the lower city. Hamilton has a serious crime problem. I am calling on local politicians to ask the province, and federal governments if necessary for additional funding. I would also like to see plans for economic development and plans for environmental improvement. Hamilton seems to be lagging behind the rest of the province in receiving funding for infrastructure as well. Hamilton has the potential to be a world class city. Let's take the opportunities that are available to us, and use them to our full potential to make Hamilton a better place for all.

Need to revamp social services program where people are not constantly on the system collecting benefits. Need to have it as a short term assistance plan, not a long term pay cheque for them. Need to get the "lifers" working instead of sitting at home having taxpayers fund their assistance. Keep the programs and improve upon them where they help them find work.

From what I've seen in the last 2 months the City is going to start working well soon. We've shed some dead weight, have had some great public meetings on interesting topics and I seem to be hearing from everyone in my sector that the City is actually calling them now - instead of the old way of us always going to the City. Nice to see two way partnerships forming. I would still focus on economic development more- with a specific focus on cultural industries.

I think you need to work on expanding and maintaining sidewalks. There are a lot of people who take the bus so therefore walk as a way to get around town. And there are too many places in this city that need a sidewalk or some kind of path. And snow removal needs to be looked at mostly with places that are closed during the winter or abandoned buildings where there is nobody to deal with the snow.

To make the city work better I believe the people living in it should be apart in making it better. Neglected rental housing should be addressed and it should be made easier for persons owning home to make improvements with improvements like tree removal, driveways, etc should be looked at on an individual basis.

Enforce by-laws that are made; make home/business owners liable for their pride of ownerships. I always thought it was the property owners responsibility not to junk up their property and main the buildings. I can give prime examples in our neighborhood. A cleaner and better maintained neighbour promotes desire to live in the area.

NONE OF THESE ARE IMPORTANT TO ME.THE HOMELESS, UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOWERING THE CRIME RATE, ESPECIALLY CRACK HOUSES, WOULD BE A MORE USEFUL WAY TO SPEND YOUR TIME. ALSO #6 DIDN'T LEAVE ANY ROOM FOR A NEGATIVE ANSWER. IN YOUR STATEMENT YOU SAY IT WILL BENEFIT THE CITY, AND

THEN ASK IF IT SHOULD BE DONE. MY ANSWER WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MUCH TIME THESE REVIEWS WOULD TAK. (TOO MUCH TIME TALKING, NOT ENOUGH ACTION)"

Ensuring that the city run halfway and other homes for 'special' citizens are maintained and policed. We've had trouble in our neighbourhood with 'residents' abusing the yard behind their home for drug use and sexual activities. There are many children in our area that don't need to be exposed to that.

Get rid of area rating!

Better public transit in all areas of Hamilton - more incentives for people to walk, bike, and carpool or take public transit

Area rating is an awful idea that creates silos, causes dissension and impedes the growth potential of the entire area. I dare say that residents of the old city cost less to service, per capita, due the densities involved. I'd also guess that those in Ancaster, Flamborough or other outlying areas benefit from the services they pay less for through cleaner air (transit) and economies of scale in other services.

Major issues: High property taxes (my taxes for a business in Miss. are cheaper)  
No control of suburban sprawl

Downtown neglected. Builders who get city approval are ""connected"" with old mayor

One of the issues in the city is the number of illegal duplexes/triplexes/rooming houses – possibly you could hire more people to investigate illegal divisions of houses into apartments. (The city should have a list on the properties on whether it is single or duplexes – take it and go and see how many mailboxes the place has – investigate and fine or get them to convert the property.) More money needs to go to the police – they don't have the resources to fight the crime issues this city has. If required taxes should go up (residential, not commercial or industrial) – also work on paying down the debt the city has accumulated.

All necessary services, departments and laws/bi-laws are currently in place - however, my complaint is that the services are not being carried out responsibly, the departments are not effective and the bi-laws are not enforced.

Crime seems to be the largest problem Hamilton is facing. Theft, car break-ins, prostitution & pimping, panhandling, assault and drug trafficking are everyday occurrences. Who will take control? It is obvious who has control now.

Marketing tourism? You are kidding of course. I have lived here for 5 years and you haven't even sold me on being a resident.

I think Hamilton has the potential to be the city it once was...clean, full of manufacturing and other places of employment. Now we are a city of welfare workers and welfare recipients ...Canadian born and new Canadians. Also the city has lost many years of potential revenue regarding enforcing simple by laws and there is a prevalent attitude from management and the staff that the bylaws are decoration especially around issues of parking and property standards. And there is a great deal of nepotism within the city and is reflected in some departments.

The city has some good planning policies in the Vision 2020 document; I've read it and think it is the minimum that should be done for planning future growth for the city. I think more can and should be done along the lines of Brownfield and transit development. The hard part is really up to the City counselors and staff to stick to this policy in the face of development pressures to do what is quick and easy and cheap for right now. I understand that there is demand for Greenfield development and sprawl type residential development but it should no longer be the main option for growth in Hamilton, it should in the near future have less emphasis than it does today.

Management is key, fiscal and otherwise. This, accompanied by transparent books where people are held accountable before, during, and after.

I think that closing outdoor pools and maintaining indoor ones may be feasible on a small scale, or in certain conditions. If the outdoor pool has low usage, then it may make sense. Having said that, I think that Hamilton has incredible potential to renovate the city and make it shine once again as a progressive and wonderful place to live. I do not believe that closing things that make our communities special, like outdoor pools, makes sense in that way.

I also believe that our downtown area is in desperate need of revitalization. There needs to be pedestrian traffic brought back into the core, and businesses need to be encouraged to come back or else we may face an irreversible wal-martization we can't bounce back from."

I think that Hamilton needs a face lift in order to receive better business.

Not much has changed in our city. Enforcing harsher laws for drugs and getting our children (who hang- out) off the street, this makes our downtown core very unappealing to business and consumers.

All the city departments are important, parks need more staff. I totally support all public services, critical for a successful city. I still think the downtown is an eyesore and is pulling this city down. I think there should be large tax incentives for downtown businesses, free parking and move sex related businesses to the industrial area. I'm sick of the constant scene of prostitutes on the drive downtown from the East End. I think having the goodwill ambassador students downtown was a waste of money. People come to see beautiful surroundings, nice restaurants, shopping and the arts, squeaky clean students don't cut it. Lastly, I am happy to see something done about inappropriate behavior at City Hall, be it elected officials or staff.

There needs to be much higher fines and punitive action levied against irresponsible animal owners. Roaming cats should be picked up as they are a nuisance to everyone who doesn't have one! Aggressive breeds should have a zero-tolerance for bites and attacks. The owners need to be held financially accountable for their inability to control their animals. Reports of animal abuse must also be dealt with severe fines and removal of the animal in question.

Along the same lines, we need more social workers to monitor out children at risk.

Hiring of additional police for drug enforcement.

Revamp the application processes of the social service programs that we offer to reduce the incidences of abuse of these services. Or we could limit the time that a person could be on social assistance (Welfare) so that the assistance is used to help someone get back on their feet and find themselves a job to get the panhandlers off the downtown streets. People do not want to visit downtown Hamilton and be bothered from people asking for spare change.

Property Standards are very important to my community and as a resident of the lower city. We have been attending community association meetings with the City and separately, discussions on housing intensification and lack of proactiveness by the City are really evident to me and my neighbors and people visiting us from various cities. The City absolutely needs to be more proactive with landlords and derelict buildings and enforce by-laws, even the simplest ones such as vehicles in the same direction as traffic and not any which way. This would be a symbol that the City is serious about enforcing its by-laws. Please enact the Vision 20/20 document as it outlines key directions to the City's prosperity.

Implement phase-in deadlines of proposals, such as determining the fate of the Lister Bldg., which must be met. It seems that studies for downtown revitalization are constantly revisited partly because the purpose for the study was not clearly determined and time-lines for implementation are not addressed or adhered to.

Create a Bus Only lane along Main St. and King St. Allow parking only on one side and make it free downtown, but time-limited.

Get social workers out on the street talking to the homeless, mentally ill etc., get them the help they need if they're willing, and off the street.

2-way street conversion downtown. Driving through downtown is like trying to get through a busy ugly parking.

Encourage interesting businesses downtown. Tourists, or residents are not attracted by dollar stores, cheque cashing and adult clubs.

Have some say in the store fronts and signage; make them uniform or just not so prevalent.

Nice streetcars running along downtown 2-WAY streets would surely encourage transit usage, and let us fill in many parking lots!

Dedicate King Street south of Gore Park to pedestrians.

GO train extension to Hamilton commuters with money restoring these gorgeous decaying homes

I do not believe that reviews and/or studies on how the city should work are likely to be of value. What I would support is a cycle of audits which would start from the point of view of the service or information to be provided by a department and then seeing how it does

Hire better quality people for management positions and they will know what to do with waste if not replace them instantly just like the private sector would do

Hamilton is a great city, but it would benefit from financial investment into the core. In point of fact, it would be nice to see abandoned buildings either redeveloped or torn down, and funding for historical homes so they can be maintained (cities such as Stratford On provide reimbursements for renovations/restorations of historical homes) this may help rejuvenate some of the less desirable areas. Also, I would like to see the city of Hamilton provide greater support to youth crime prevention programs such as the Routes Youth Centre (Dundas) and other Drop in centres.

Stop encouraging suburban development and focus on downtown. Develop modern east west and north South Street car lines. Convert streets to two way

The city needs to integrate itself more with the GTA, particularly building on the excellent access to the whole area, not just Toronto. A recent article in the Globe about affordable housing around the GTA failed to mention Hamilton, we are not properly on the media's radar in relation to the GTA.

Here are my general comments:

- Hold meetings on evenings or weekends to allow working people to actually serve on them
- More control on welfare programs-they are over spending at the cost of other programs suffering
- Spend taxpayers money like it is your own instead of wasting it
- Employees and managers should receive yearly reviews
- Work with unions-develop a method of dealing with employees that are not performing their jobs-additional training-mentoring-and dismiss if required
- Clean up the core-hookers and crack houses abound-until the area is more secure why would families want to live there
- Work with landlords that have their hands tied by the tribunal, help them rid buildings of bad tenants so that good tenants will stay

Sustainability is the key moving forward. Economic, social and environmental sustainability. The City needs to reconsider development strategies and push for a healthier more sustainable plan. This means prioritizing the services that build community, equalize opportunity, and contribute to healthy citizens. Specifically this may mean focusing on social and economic development at the heart of the issues: more economically diverse neighbourhoods (commercial and residential together; intermixed social strata), high quality public transportation where it's needed most and excellent education.

I think Hamilton city would work better if we invested more money in redeveloping the downtown core. So it became much more attractive for people to work, live and shop. Get rid of area rating and charge all city residents equally  
Area rating should be phased out. This is one city that everyone should contribute to equally.

Living in a rural area has resulted in increased taxes but not increased services. Thus I'd be willing to pay extra if it can be clearly shown that the money is actually going to pay those services and not being directed elsewhere.

It is time that we all bite the bullet on the budget. No more increases in taxes. There is only one tax payer. The feds and the province say they have surplus, and the city goes hat in hand every year. That is bull. Whatever it takes in cuts to services and costs to bring the budget in line do it. You cannot get more blood from the stone.

The Heart of any city is its Downtown. Hamilton is no exception. With an increase in support for downtown development (housing, commercial, recreational) this city could see a turn-around not just downtown but throughout the entire GHA.

Slowing Traffic, promoting more downtown developments while at the same time continuing to support ongoing projects. Most importantly creating more Livable communities not just downtown but throughout the entire city; this means MUCH BETTER TRANSIT!

This city is in desperate need for a form of Rapid Transit. A BRT, or preferably, an LRT are necessary NOW for 2007. The city MUST jump on this environmentally friendly alternative to transit NOW as the Federal & Provincial Governments are all for green ideas.

The downtown area needs more attention on both building renovation and community security. The intense presentation of homeless people and the people with problem behavior brings a negative image to Hamilton downtown.

There has not been enough open dialogue with the public when it comes to major plans for the city. Far too many in camera sessions and not enough Cable 14 coverage. If cable 14 can put a camera on Roy Green they can put at least one camera in council chambers for the committee meetings.

The clerks department needs to make more detail happen in the reports of the meetings. We should not have to rely on a citizen's activists group of untrained and inexperienced citizens doing more detailed minutes than the city's own clerks department.

This situation is creating a divide in the community and supplies reports on important decisions from a source that isn't even accountable. They don't list names."

- focusing in on developing a more efficient city center by promoting a walking, cycling or public transit in the downtown core. Using areas downtown to hold public gatherings that are promoting the city in a positive light. Using downtown businesses to donate time, or services in exchange for advertising. Slow down the timing of lights on the main streets so you can't go from east to west in 20 minutes hitting every green. A few stops here and there will detour speed racing.

Invest more in transit, in promoting biking walking and carpooling than in roads.  
Prioritize social services, subsidized housing, services for women and children, day care.  
Improve rather than increase Police - more sensitivity training, esp. in area of sexual violence.  
Services should be universal, not only for those who can pay.

I believe that City Housing Hamilton needs a review of its operating procedures. Everything from hiring criteria at all levels, harassment policies and maintenance procedures.

Three things would greatly improve this city: 1) Better public transit 2) Turning streets into destinations rather than highways (e.g. make main street a two-lane boulevard with slower traffic to make the neighbourhood actually nice to live in and be around), 3) Improved funding and assistance for small businesses in the core.

I could not answer question 5, all the services named are important.  
Recycling pickup has become less efficient since contracted out to Halton Services.

The best way to make an immediate beneficial impact on the city as a whole, is to make the HSR the most advanced public transport system in the country

This city needs to redesign its priorities from the ground up and also scream loudly to the province and feds for money to pay for the years of downloading. I don't have a problem with having a disproportionate share of SW Ontario's and the GTA's social services and users of those services providing that they are not paid for off the municipal tax levy. We have almost the highest tax rate in Canada yet services are cut every year.



Libraries and Parks need help...the parks in particular look dowdy...and that's not very good for promoting tourism!

I see particular problems in this city with recently making 'Parking Enforcement' an economic development strategy because this simply drives people away from shopping downtown if they get a ticket for being 10 minutes late returning to their car. If we can make it free for Xmas, we can make it free all year.

This is a very biased survey the manner in which questions are asked is inappropriate. Also this survey should not ask for peoples contact information. There are problems with the ranking and the way questions are asked.

Also it does not seem right to rank ""public health"" over ""fire"" or Library - all are important aspects of City Government

Operational review is badly needed for department running municipal parking. Very poorly managed.

The City seems to have the image of a dirty industrial town which it really isn't. I think we need to improve this image. We also have the image of being an out of control drinking city. Westdale and the West Mountain with its students. Locke Street and Hess Street with its loud drunken bars. C.D's on Ottawa Street and there are others. If we want people to relocate in Hamilton we need them to know that it's safe for them and that they will also be able to sleep at night.

I do support the effort to better market Hamilton as a place to live or visit. As part of this program, I believe it essential to have events and sights better organized and "face lifted" in order to have some substance to backup our marketing campaign.

Some parts of the website are helpful and straight forward to use others are not. Parks and Fire portions ([www.hamilton.ca/parks](http://www.hamilton.ca/parks) and [/fire](http://www.hamilton.ca/fire)) are both examples I have used and found useful. The searches are not intuitive and do not find what you are looking for on a regular basis.

I support marketing/promotion of the City through word of mouth of the citizens and as such this survey and general employee's morale is the best tool available. Good job!

I support operational reviews as long as the results are implemented... What I see as most important is that management/council gain hands on experience in an area prior to implementing changes so that changes can be made which result in improvements without mistakes.

The search feature on the website is very difficult to use. For example, I was trying to find Richard Gilbert's report, but was unable to find it using the search engine. In fact, the first five hits referred to someone called Gilbert who was on the Police board in 1846!

I also feel that area weighting is preventing the city from providing adequate service levels in areas like transit. All residents should pay the same rate.

Strong leadership to make important decisions in improving downtown. We need jobs and economic development in outlying areas but MOST IMPORTANTLY in the many brown field

areas in the core. Create as many economic advantages for investment in the downtown area. Please help.

The question above does not represent the reasons for area rating. Most people will choose NO because they do not want to be charged for something they don't receive. However, I see that, for example, Transit should be funded from the entire population of Hamilton because it is somewhat of a social service and because those who choose to live outside of the transit boundaries, have personally chosen to forgo public transit, and for the most part, can afford to drive a single occupant vehicle. I think the City Should encourage people to live within the urban area with Transit facilities, rather than encourage urban sprawl, by reducing taxes for those who have chosen to live outside of the Urban (Transit) Area.

Thank you for finally asking my opinion! The city has to bring the people that live here together. Why don't we look back at old pictures of our city when the town's people would crowd around our city officials to hear what they had to say? I want to see our city officials out on the streets. Creating open forums in our city centers or parks to hear what you are going to do for us. Get the people of Hamilton more neighbor friendly! Please give parking officers more authority to give out tickets to cars idling. I walk downtown to work and back every .HSR buses, cars and DART vans sit idling around the clock all along McNab Street. It is unhealthy for all of us! Snow removal is very important for the city!

I think all the services listed in question 4 are important, so have a difficult time answer question five. In terms of question 2, I find the information very useful, but frequently difficult to find.

Stop using the sloped 'California Curbs' where the entire sidewalk is sloped for driveways. This is very dangerous for the elderly and even the almost elderly like me.

Stop discriminating against dog owners as far as licensing is concerned. Cats roam the city at will, yet dogs cannot be let off leash even in isolated areas when the dogs are very friendly.

This city needs pedestrian crosswalks, slower traffic, and more money for police, more bike paths, and off-leash parks for dogs that are within walking distance. Far too much money is spent for animal control to hand out fines for people without dog licenses and to off-leash dogs, rather pointless since the vast majority of dogs, like people, are non-aggressive and do not get lost. The SPCA takes care of most animal services anyway and is not funded by the city or the government at all. Also, some nice rounded speed bumps that force cars to drive more slowly not the usual speed bumps. Especially on the mountain access going up Queen/Beckett Drive. Cars speed and tailgate, yet you are supposed to be able to cross the road to the other side.

I really feel that the transit services in Hamilton need a huge boost. Hamilton really makes it hard for the people to live here to travel by public transit. I feel like I need to own a car in order to live in Hamilton. The wait times between buses are ridiculous. To wait 45 minutes for a bus is unacceptable for a city such as Hamilton. There needs to be more service, and more accessibility to these services. More routes, more buses (or alternative options) and a faster service. As well, the commute between Hamilton and Toronto could be expanded as there are only 6 times a day when GO transit trains arrive or depart from Hamilton. For a city that is so heavily dependent on commuting to Toronto, we definitely need more service.

I would put all emergency services under one category (Police, Fire and EMS) and then add Public Works as 1 of the 5 most important services.

We definitely need more frequent and extended transit. We also need more police on the streets to help the growing amount of robberies. More control is also needed for 'beggars' in the downtown core. It is very annoying to have to be asked for change continuously!!

Council's meddling in the day-to-day operations of the City is unbelievable and a detriment to constituents and staff trying to do their jobs - stories in the paper these past weeks are testimony. Council and senior staff, lack vision and direction. I don't believe either understands what we need to do and how to get there.

The questions on Economic Development speak to the fact that at least somebody has noticed that we are completely missing the boat.

Not that it will make the City work better on it's own, but the City's website search engine...sucks!!! I know the info I want is there but queries always end up in the wrong place. Try doing a search on a subject that isn't so straight forward as finding a garbage schedule."

A lot of money is spent on consultants. This includes for public consultations. Some of the work is very shoddy and facile and too willing to suck up to the existing view of top city officials. There are times that it makes sense to get outside expertise, but there are also times when you will get more expertise for less price by maintaining internal competence. I think it is worth asking whether some current consulting work could be done more cheaply in house.

Council must put more faith in City Staff, with respect to recommendations.

Today, Hamilton spends too much effort trying to optimize driving at the expense of other modes of transportation, particularly walking, cycling, and transit. Vibrant neighbourhoods and healthy local businesses are more important than the ability to race through the city in 20 minutes.

The City of Hamilton needs to be feeling like a community, a single living and breathing unit. Residents need to feel the impact of their contributions, including property taxes paid, general purchases, services used, emissions produced. We need to know when we are doing something right and feel it when we are doing something wrong. More general awareness, more general consequence.

Three words: Downtown, downtown, downtown! Revitalizing downtown is key to jumpstarting this city. Renew, restore, revitalize. Attract new development. Do something unique. Get people talking.

All of the above services are important for any municipality. It is impossible to decide between them. Are you really asking residents to decide if planning is more or less important than ambulance?

I see what appears to be an opportunity for city's outside workers to be more efficient. Forestry, Garbage collection, bylaw enforcement... I realize the constraints collective agreements put the city under, however more effort has to be put forth (on both sides of the agreements) to work to lower costs and improve service levels. Forestry has to be more efficient.

Garbage collection - stat holidays should push the collection day, no pick up on weekends. The waste calendar the city sends out is very helpful, and can alleviate any confusion.

I am very concerned about the lack of infrastructure maintenance on city water works pipes, many of which are very old and need replacement BEFORE they burst.

Openness, responsibility, accountability. Bernie Morelli's hearing should not have been in camera -- he's a public, elected official, not a private citizen or an employee. We pay the taxes, we're entitled to hear what Councillors are doing, whether they want us to watch or not.

Citizens should be encouraged to conserve water. Storm and Sanitary sewer capacity must be increased and we should halt further residential development until it is.

Stop urban sprawl. Give incentives (e.g. loan programs) for loft conversions.

Improve bus transit and GO train service to Toronto.

Enforce building standards. Too many buildings crumble or are dilapidated-- the city core cannot maintain an image as a place people would want to live if our lovely heritage buildings are left unpainted and rotting. Strict enforcements of property standards would help prevent this situation-- maintaining a building is likely to be cheaper than a complete overhaul necessitated by a previous owner who failed to maintain standards.

We should have set quality parameters of the treated sewage disposed into waterways;

Over-strength Agreements should have a strict time limit (3 years maximum);

Brown fields should be readied for development and using agricultural land instead is very bad policy.

The city should become a world education centre, so our heritage sites should be preserved, especially the ancient native sites and labour heritage.

We should become a leader in alternative energy use to produce electricity.

Citizens' liaison committees should exist for all major services and activities of the municipality.

Election finances should be reformed so that candidates have an even playing field.

Lawyers should not be hired to make money for the city, but In reference to question #6 above; I do agree that periodically operational reviews are needed, but I strongly feel that these should be conducted as economically and time efficiently as possible.

A successful city requires a successful downtown core. A successful downtown core requires pedestrians to patronize the shops, and generally energize the neighborhood. Unfortunately the downtown is openly hostile to pedestrians. We need fewer lanes of traffic, more 2-way conversions, bigger sidewalks.

Furthermore, the area rating question is misleading. Some rural areas do receive transit service, but pay less because fewer busses pass by. Thus area rating of transit becomes a subsidy for suburbanites who depend on a successful downtown, but nevertheless can opt-out of contributing to a transit system on which that success depends. It's not unlike parents who pay for private school refusing to pay public school tax

All of the services the city provides are important. I don't think it's possible to choose which are more important.

I believe that the two major issues facing the city and the way people view this city are as follows: its visual image, crime (crack), poverty (those coming from Toronto). Ask me more

Better/more frequent transit, and please consider that most of us using transit do work weekends- so for example, have a bus running east-west on Saturdays and Sundays. As is, there is no bus running from the east end past Jackson square on Saturdays and there is no express bus running on Saturdays. That means my Saturdays are more miserable than necessary.

Second, the police here are nice people but they can hardly control the crack element. I opened a business in Hamilton this past spring and closed it in the fall mainly due to problems with aggressive panhandlers and thieves. The police could do little, and we even found out that confusion over the policing areas caused our block to have absolutely no policing. "

Remove the area rating; it is holding the city transit system back from becoming a comprehensive, effective system.

For 2 above the site has useful information but it is often difficult to find.

This survey is a little premature - a new mayor and some new councillors, talk to us again in an other six month with a new survey - in other words after showing some real progress

I have been unable to find a way to make comments around specific suggestions I have related to traffic lights, etc. This info should be easily accessible on the website.

Recognize the heavy workload that City employees carry. Good communication with everyone.

As a participant in similar City of Hamilton surveys in the past, I find it somewhat limiting to pick five services I feel are most important to our city. I'd say Fire, Police and Medical services are all ones we expect to be there when we need them. When we're asked to choose between maintaining an efficient Fire Department and having a Library, it seems to be obvious that fire services are the greater priority.

That said, it's hard for me not to support all of these services as vital priorities, and hard for me as a citizen to not expect all of these services will be adequately funded. In what I've observed myself, sometimes more pressing priorities tend to overshadow many smaller concerns, which, all totaled, are equally vital to sustain

Questions #4 and #5 are virtually impossible to answer. I'm sure a lot of people - including myself - would have a hard time ranking any of these services as "least important". Perhaps the list should have been broken down into categories (i.e. quality of life vs. essential services, etc.) Increased co-operation between city departments could benefit the city and reduce costs. For example, using the heavily used Public Library as a means to promote other city services, such as providing transit maps and bus schedules to increase rider ship, or promoting the myhamilton website.

I think it's time that council starts taking proper actions when it comes to the actions of its own members and that of the public service sector of this city. I have yet to see any accountability on the part of this city's council.

The following are my comments in this category:

- Put back the one way streets.
- Stop the artificial creation of neighbourhoods.
- Get out and talk to people.
- Drop social programs and give the money to the police.

Please improve Blue Box services...Please do NOT license clubs that are actually situated on a single family dwelling street...strangers coming into a neighbourhood is never a good idea.. Also, please do not destroy our neighbourhood by allowing the Good Shepherd to build on the old Loretta Academy property...I wonder how much tax payer's money the Good Shepherd will pull in from the properties. I'm fed up with these so called 'social service agencies' getting the OK from government, to walk in and mess up a neighbourhood. This goes for the methadone pharmacy too. We all talk to each other, in the neighbourhood. Everyone has the same concerns...and we are fed up being told we don't care to help people. This is always the line given.

I have moved back to my home town, Hamilton, after living 25 years in Mississauga. I hated the development and rudeness of people in Mississauga but you should sit down with HAZEL to find out how City Hall works so well and how she performs so well (she knows everything going on and staff at city hall knows that she will call them to task if they don't perform. Hamilton must develop this culture of performance at City Hall and everything else will fall into place (no licensing dept scandal in Mississauga city hall!))

It is amazing how different it is to watch council meetings in Mississauga and those in Hamilton. It is like watching one government at a university level and another at grade4. Hamilton's future depends on correcting this.

From the communications I've seen from the new Mayor and about the city, it looks like we might be finally headed in a better direction.

I think the downtown renewal based on the arts and small business is the key. There are a lot of people here with ideas and ambition. Why not make some of the vacant decomposing buildings in the core available for people who want to invest and develop them. End the tax reduction on chronically vacant land and step up the reclamation of vacant properties with taxes in arrears then turn them over to people with the means to renovate or start a small business in them and lease lend the properties to give us a head start.

I'm not sure about the need for a marketing strategy. If we function well as a community & tell the truth about ourselves, we should not need any other strategy. I believe that the world will be most impressed by our functioning, if we can eliminate our reliance on adversarial methods to resolve our differences. We all experience this world differently & come to differing conclusions about how to make life better for us all. Because we all make errors in judgment (& memory & perception), we all need to abandon our natural tendency to be 'sure' we are right & those who disagree with us are wrong! Such arrogance has no place in a democracy!! We MUST LEARN TO LISTEN TO DEEPLY to those who differ, find out why & shoot for CONSENSUS. WEMUST!

Every service the city provides needs to be reviewed by a dedicated effectiveness and efficiency group to determine if a real value is being provided by the services. This includes City workers! Trim the Fat!

Your website myhamilton.ca needs work. It needs budget to employ strategic minded, experienced researchers and designers. The same people who developed what we have now and have had in the past are clearly incapable. Look at other organizations and staff accordingly.

Seems to me the city needs MORE subsidized housing, and for those that are not familiar with living in an environment that is conducive to their own health and well being, perhaps some sort of classes should be taught to help them learn how to live in a "normal" environment, and take responsibility for their actions, or face consequences

Do not fund projects unless they are an absolute necessity and try to achieve a 0% tax increases and find ways to curtail wasteful spending!  
Taxes in this city are ludicrous and monies are wasted beyond belief."

Unfortunately, the City's website, especially the transit site, is un-navigable. Re-design the site to allow people to access the information they need and to interact with the city--the internet is an important communication tool for a democratic government because, if done properly, it can create a public forum that solves problems before they start. Use the web to streamline and speed up the bureaucratic process--for paying fines, registering things, applying for things, and strengthening initiatives.

I have only rated planning as very low, since we seem to have succeeded for so long without it. In a perfect world, however, it could be used to make everything run more smoothly and efficiently. As it is, every change seems to be a somewhat dysfunctional band-aid of sorts (leaving people watching and wondering "what possible benefit could this have?" ...take, for example, the new westdale road-island maintenance project near GR Allan which has made driving and cycling much more treacherous. Pedestrians need to be extra wary, since cars are busy merging). As an example, the green boxes were piloted in Dundas (where everyone I know has now stopped composting), and no plan has been made to get green boxes to high-rises or other places.

Run by-law enforcement (for property standards and noise complaints) like a business (properly track and report)...it seems ineffective. The city ought to do more to address the issue of post-secondary student housing in the city. There are too many rooming houses which destroy the neighbourhood infrastructure (and the only people who benefit are greedy landlords who do not live in the community they are impacting).

Improve HSR service! Improved weekend and 24 hour service would make the city more livable. Continue 2-way conversions of streets, widen sidewalks (particularly Main Street between Dundurn and Queen, which is dangerously narrow), and install more bike lanes.

I feel that there are many ways with which the City can improve the present resources that are under the control of the municipality.

The city must take control of the Licensing and Bylaw enforcement department. The bylaw inspectors must do a much better job of enforcing the bylaws and the bylaw department of the city should work in unison with the Hamilton Police Services.

The amount of Noise bylaw infractions must be raised to the maximum amount for not only those tenants being charged but also the Land Lord or Property owners. This would increase revenue for the city and send a clear message that these types of violations will no longer be tolerated.

The entire property standards policies must be revisited to better get the point

Annual city audit conducted by an independent auditor to identify waste and unnecessary spending.

Pools- In the summer time, I would close the indoor pools and maintain the outdoor pools if they were located besides each other.

Area rating- I would need to know more information about what extra services I would be receiving and how much extra the cost would be to fully answer this question.

In the section above about selecting services that are most important and least important. I did not choose any from the least important list because I do feel that all the services are important in some respect. I would not be able to discount any as being not important and would not want an answer to dictate what could be irrelevant.

Planning for mixed use development combined with following through is critical to building the densities necessary to improve transit service. I have not selected planning as an important service provided by the city as I do not believe that planning has been done well (or implemented well). Destruction of the red hill valley as well as urban sprawl and car-centric decisions reflect poor planning.

This initiative (asking for advice) as well as a more environmental approach to governance is a refreshing change and will hopefully carry on. Economic development was not stressed because the approach has been wrong in the past. Building more roads leading to continuing environmental degradation will not attract green businesses. We need.

Create more sustainable, walk able communities. Add more parks/parkettes for children, families and pets to neighbourhoods. Encourage biking by creating bike routes through low traffic neighbourhoods with biker-activated lights. Create more incentives to bike and use public transportation and discourage driving. Buses need to be cleaner. Make wearing bike helmets mandatory for all and enforce. Enforce property standards, especially rental houses near university in summer. Create more community gardens.

The two most important areas that need improving are public transportation availability (especially at night and on the weekends)

Also, PLEASE do something about downtown. There is no point in attempting to bring in tourism when you have nothing to showcase because people are so turned off by the disgrace that the City of Hamilton has allowed downtown to waste into.

Hamilton needs more than a marketing strategy. It needs something to actually market. Hamilton has a downtown core full of potential, but there has been only limited progress throughout my short life. Industrial cities in the US and UK have progressed, and Hamilton needs to follow suit. Hamilton needs vision, leadership, and entrepreneurs. Not politicians who follow polls. Lead the polls, invest in the future.



Promoting the city's image by making it more attractive to both tourists and business is very important. With a better image we would attract more of each. And tourism and business brings money and jobs into the community.

Hamilton already has a marketing strategy - continue working on the one we have.

Question 4 and 5 are loaded questions. Who in their right mind is going to indicate that any type of emergency service (ambulance, fire or police) are not important. These areas should have been combined into one category/item on the list regardless of how they break down on the budget.

Priorities should be infrastructure - roads & sewers, clean air and water, restricted development. See more developers invest in the downtown core. Certain areas of the City work great from a family perspective, generally because a variety of community services are available and they tend to disperse throughout the neighbourhood, such as Westdale. The City should work on decentralizing our community resources so that they are accessible to a greater number of residents and they are more walkable.

Stop building new infrastructure and start rebuilding the existing infrastructure. If we are not going to rebuild our older infrastructure, then perhaps we should tear it down and turn it into a park.

Change how taxes are calculated. People in the older neighborhoods closer to the core appear to get constant tax hikes while the city services provided to them become less.

Stop making people pay taxes for services that they do not use.

I believe that, while the city has an important role to play in terms of day-to-day health and safety (e.g., in the areas of animal control, restaurant inspections, and building permits), the most important job that the city has is in planning a Hamilton that is inclusive and sustainable. I think the city has to do a better job of incorporating the ideals and innovations of Hamilton's residents.

Get rid of Lister building. Build a park instead.

The councillors need to let the city managers get on with their jobs. The Councillors need to look at innovations. I get the impression that little gets done by the city council. I am so disappointed. Operational review processes "with teeth" are an excellent idea - we all know that there are significant inefficiencies within some operational areas and even some improvement would be an accomplishment. At the same time the operational review process must be transparent and driven by tangible outcomes so as to avoid it becoming part of the inefficiency problem, i.e. another exercise in process for processes' sake! Good job on the snow handling this year!

Property standards enforcement and noise bylaw enforcement need to be strengthened in the McMaster University area. The city needs to help find a way to restore balance in the university community. One to do this is by ensuring McMaster University is part of the city planning process regarding housing for its students and regarding expansion of the student population. The community cannot absorb any more students as it is currently oversaturated by student rentals, many of which are illegal and unsafe. This has led to an imbalance which causes a strain on the permanent residents and a strain on the city's services.

In my life the thing that is the most lacking is RELIABLE and TIMELY bus service. I also believe given the current level of service that the transit system is OVERPRICED and hence underused. my tax rates in Westdale are enormous...far higher than is fair. We need to be very vigilant about assessment. Services seem by and large OK. I'm most worried about future land use/development/renewal.

Need to develop a scorecard system in order to analyze delivery of service of all departments. If it can be measured that it will be easier to manage. Speed of delivery of service is paramount. The faster you can deliver proper service in any department the better the constituents will appreciate the service. By centralizing all aspects of municipal government downtown has led to slower service and frustration. By downloading more to local community offices which can be centrally linked will lead to better service. These local community offices must be allowed to make local decisions and can be headed by Voluntary, elected community leaders, chaired by the elected paid municipal councilor. This will also free up more time for real issues.

Regarding question 3: I answered no because I believe that the city should focus on improving the quality of life for the people who already live here. When we have a healthy, vibrant, sustainable community that cares for its architectural, natural, and cultural heritage, business investment and tourists will follow. Don't waste our limited resources chasing pie-in-the-sky mega projects in a pathetic attempt to seduce fickle tourists and corporations. Build a city of healthy, vibrant, walk able neighbourhoods and they will come.

This is a very leading questionnaire Fire police ambulance all need more funding to meet the needs of the city. Why does our green box program not pick up the same items that T.O. does You may get a better response if citizens were able to write what they thought after each question I do have concerns with the amount of money earmarked for this survey and the hiring of consultants to tell you what the city staff already know Taxes in this city are far to high A lot of people commute to T.O. daily and it seems that the HSR/GO cannot coordinate its schedules This is "STEEL CITY" face it embrace it and make it work for this city we are not a Toronto or a Niagara region work with what we have to offer. The core? How much more will be wasted

Stop over spending, shop for better deals, cut programs, charge for others. I'm tired of my property tax bill being the highest in the province when I don't even use 80% of the services I'm taxed for! Stop issuing building permit for builders to use up all the farmland, there will be none left for our kids. I live in Hamilton not Toronto which is nothing but houses and surveys. What happens to all the displaced animals when their homes are destroyed? Think of the impact on the environment and the wildlife instead of the dollar signs. Try turning off the lights at Bernie Arbor at night, no reason to waste power like that we're told to conserve yet you don't. The City is horribly wasteful.

Put flowers in the flower beds, knock down old buildings downtown, open those areas to green space, build new in the core with a city hall, invite more patio bars to the core, eliminate strip malls, do something meaningful about graffiti, establish and enforce meaningful standards for maintenance on all buildings and properties, plant trees, reestablish green space and housing around the bay, move to a bicycle & pedestrian only approach to the core, have parking behind and away from that, crack down on gangs, move the Goths and the bums, invite and welcome the panhandlers who contribute in some way, either musically or in performing arts to the core, develop green corridors to the core and the bay, make the city more bicycle friendly

Operational and Service Delivery reviews, will be a waste of time and money IF you do not also develop an implementation plan for the recommended changes.

I have had some recent dealings with Parks & Rec and have been shocked by the very poor performance at City Hall in the areas of internal and external communication, planning & development / prioritization and policy. If a private business was run anywhere near like the city appears to be run, it would go bankrupt!!

I think transit costs should be lowered for those on Ontario Disability Support Program. They are a group of people who on assistance which is not their fault. The amount of money they receive is well below the poverty line and with the cost of transit. It is difficult for this group of people to be able to do the things they need to do or would like to do.

Above there was mention of reviews. I feel we have done enough reviews over the years, and our tax dollars can be better spent on other things instead of reviews that cost money and usually resolve nothing.

How about we stop doing things half-ass? Half-ass is half-done. A city beautification program would help but public works should be top-notch and exceed national standards...instead of second rate and almost token. Public health and environmental controls on industry must be made more stringent. Closer to home, the city's waste management program is a ridiculous joke and require revision.

FOCUS OFTEN, FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS, ON THE REAL IMPORTANT ISSUES LIKE MAKING MONEY, WELL THOUGHT OUT-PROPER DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, EDUCATE, AND WORK HARDER OVER THERE. PROTECT YOUR REAL ASSETS; GET RID OF THE NEGATIVES, DEAD WOOD. YOU NEED FRESH AIR.

CPP disability needs to be look at for those that want to try and return to work there are no programs available like Ontario Works or O D S P has to offer. People can't not afford to return to work for min. wages we have families to support and bills to pay. CPP does not even return my call since Jan 15 07 I was asking for some support to try to get back to work... Nope no call back yet Not acceptable I will gladly do there job if they don't have the time for the people on cpp. Thank you

The tax levels in Hamilton are a punishing deterrent to business and personal success. Tax relief for the homeowner is the only meaningful strategy that can be employed by city hall to improve our lot.

Since all areas of the city have access to all city activities, including rec.centres, rinks, libraries, municipal centres and also benefit from the operation of the city, the tax ratio should be the same anywhere within the city, if those who choose to live in an area that may not have transit services that is a choice they make. Secondly, the web page is not user friendly, too much, not to the point.

I live on the East Mountain and do not currently use public transit because of the amount of time it takes relative to driving. Missing a bus means a long wait as does missing connections. When I first moved back to Hamilton, 10 years ago, I could take my daughter skating almost every night if the week at different arenas. I do not think it is right as a society that hockey leagues should monopolize the ice arena surfaces available. No young kid needs to be on the ice as much as these hub, select and rep teams are. There does seem to still be a lot of waste at City Hall. Committees and advisory boards are not the answer. I am sure you could find out more by asking the employees themselves.

City revitalization is important - buildings, business. We wish to attract more people to the area.

I wish council paid more attention to our roads and road-maintenance programs. Aging infrastructure is key for a variety of budgetary problems we are facing today. Capital spending on new projects should increase in time, rather than patching the problems.

Licensing should be enforced unlike ever before, contractors and developers should be made aware of the impact they cause when they disrupt traffic routes as the break city roads to install their private services. In addition to this, planning should realize of the environmental impact industrial buildings have on rural zones, and learn to protect the environment from any potential threat.

Eliminate wasteful mailings

I would also like choose public works & economic development as important city services. I don't feel that any services are less important, but maybe funding should be looked at to see if too much money is being spent on services that don't need as much...

In the spectator it was noted that Flamborough has casino money why not use it to pay down the cost of the new Waterdown library, as this would benefit all the citizens of Flamborough as well as save money for the rest of Hamilton.

I don't know about the quality of some of the services because I have not used the service recently. Maybe we should close some indoor pools to maintain the outdoor pools. There would still be enough indoor pools to fill the need in the winter months but we still have the pleasure of being outdoors in the summer.

I would like to see future parking lots built up rather than out. An example is some beautiful old homes were torn down on Upper Sherman & Concession Street. A multi leveled lot may have taken up less green space, provided more parking as well as protecting customers from the elements.

Council members need to be more focused on the entire city area, not just their ward.

LIBRARIES EITHER NEED TO BE OPEN WHEN PEOPLE CAN USE THEM OR SHUT ENTIRELY. WHY PROMOTE READING IN SCHOOLS AND THEN HAVE LIBRARIES CLOSE IN THE EVENING AND ON WEEKENDS, THEN COMPLAIN THAT PEOPLE DON'T USE THEM. AGAIN HIRE PEOPLE AND TRAIN THEM- THEY CAN COME FROM THE ASSISTANCE ROLLS AND THEN WE CAN CUT BACK THERE. ROADS ARE ROUGH. TONS OF RENTAL DUMPS ALL OVER CITY- GIVE THEM STANDARDS-ORDERS TO COMPLY AND THEN HIT THEM IN THE POCKETBOOK. STOP THE ROOMING HOUSES WITHOUT PERMITS IN SINGLE FAMILY ZONING. GET TOUGH. WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE WHO PLAY BY THE RULES ALWAYS BE PENALIZED AND FORCED TO LIVE WITH THESE NUISANCES

Something needs to be done about our taxes!! Cities around us are paying less and the quality of Burlington and Grimsby is nicer. Family members have moved out of Hamilton b/c of this and we are now looking to do the same along with friends. This city does not offer any thing better than our neighbours and cost more. It has been a number of years and City hall still can't give us a reason to stay!!

Paying extra for transit services doesn't affect me as I own my own car, however, I would be willing to consider if a particular service(s) were provided that I could make use of.

Garbage collection is an issue. Blue Box people leave a lot of garbage in their wake as they leave. Outside contractors are not accountable to the public. We need more accountability here. We should not have to clean up after them.

Some of these questions were leading questions. And I hope that certain answers don't lead to an assumption. I agreed to closing outdoor pools to lower cost but that assumes that there is no other alternative to lower costs. What about opening outdoor for summer and indoor for winter? While I agreed to the marketing strategy, I don't think we should spend a huge amount on a consultant - spend wisely on this one. Engage youth in municipal meetings by giving them a seat and a vote. Also, have an aboriginal rep in our municipal meetings. I'm not aboriginal but we need to open communication. Increase tourism by cleaning up beaches, I used to swim in Hamilton but now I go anywhere else with cleaner lakes. Help the environment at the same time.

I agree with Mayor Fred that we need more out in the open talk you don't want to hide things and have them come out at a later date and have everyone mad. Be straight forward people will appreciate it more.

Public transit should switch completely to hybrid buses. The fuel savings alone seen in Seattle Washington have proven their value. They will pay for themselves. The urban forest should be encouraged. Each property should have its own tree. Level the tax base across the city, all should pay the same rate amount based on square footage on the deed. This would remove inconsistencies in the system. We need more traffic cops...enforce the little things and the bigger pictures becomes more clear. The Europeans are far ahead of us in this. Encourage alternative energy by example and promote green. Make Hamilton an example for meeting Kyoto and the may be some pleasing results.

The physical appearance of the City has to be my major complaint. Lawn cutting and trimming - traffic islands - debris - painting - benches etc needing repairs. All of these are not big money items. A little bit more work and our City will be easier to promote etc. and then there is the downtown core.

Please continue using this type of survey in the future! It's great! I think some of the questions could be better worded (or further split) to make your results easier to interpret, but great start!

Recreation: The RecConnect web site and phone system needs to be upgraded to handle higher capacity. Everyone I know who uses the system spends hours on Saturday mornings trying to get through to sign up for recreational programs (we sign our kids up for swimming).

Minimize the use of ""consultants"". These groups tend to be highly expensive. Instead, listen to the residents and existing staff. People who experience these issues on a daily basis are far more qualified to provide solutions than ""XYZ Corp.""

I'm very concerned that when the Red Hill Creek expressway opens, it will be at capacity with truck traffic. There are already backups at the Linc and the 403 daily. Road conditions on the South Mountain, such as widening Rymal, need to be addressed as an alternative route. My wife, who walks frequently, complains bitterly about the lack of sidewalks on Rymal between Upper Sherman and Upper James; and on Stone Church between Nebo and Upper Mount Albion.

Better public transit, peak oil awareness, and downtown renewal, a brighter and greener future.

Public Transit system needs to be improved. HSR is providing a service to the public community but perhaps it should be given to an organization that can provide the service properly... seeing as how they currently cannot. The drivers can be rude, the busses are consistently late, and (etc) which makes me feel like the current price of bus fare is ridiculous. I feel the roads are very unsafe. The amount of car accidents scares me. I've been hit myself crossing the street and I do not feel safe walking around in the city.

Enforce pollution control laws for business. Redevelop brown field sites as residential units. Attract green business development. Encourage university expansion and programs for local people. Do not encourage downtown developments with tax payer money until province moves jail, halfway houses group homes etc. Centralizing affordable housing in core produces multi-generational poverty and crime. Ensure developers in suburbs create some affordable housing. Bring ambulance response times to 1996 levels or better; expand scope of practice for paramedics

A thorough "house-cleaning" of ALL management is needed at Animal Control! The conditions are deplorable for the animals, workers who try to help the animals find homes are threatened with their jobs, rescue groups are treated like pariahs, if they're contacted at all, rescue groups are not allowed copies of any paperwork for animals they sign for, Jim Gillis & Cal Burnett are bullies & have no compassion. The vet tech, Penny, is in the wrong occupation as she seems to enjoy killing. Management is constantly overheard discussing instating a policy that forbids rescues to take dogs from them. Certain breeds are consistently & fraudulently assessed as "aggressive" so they can be euthanized instead of given to rescue. More to say-no room

Some areas of the website are efficient to use, others, not so much

After reading the 2007 budget summary I was pleased to see that new city vehicles would be hybrids however I would prefer to see a more cost effective and reduced gas consumption hybrid car instead of the listed Ford Escape SUV

I feel this section is a little one sided. It seems to really focus on the planning and licensing side. What about Culture and Recreation.

You ask if we would like the outdoor pool closed to operate an indoor pool. How about opening an outdoor pool in a location there is NO pool. Also, there are not enough activities at the rec. centres. Some centres have lots of activities and other do not. The cost can be minimal, and with the 40hr volunteer time students need to graduate, we should be working with the schools and get more programs going.

Also, what about location for residents. The city departments are everywhere. The administration component needs to be together to create a better environment for the City. "

Governments generally spend too much money on out sourcing 'consultants'. This is a total waste of money. The city has enough managers and staff that can look into things without hiring consultants.

We need to clean up city and make it attractive before you could market.

Spend more on roads, ambulance and by-law enforcement, pollution control encourage more high-rise developments. More in depth recruitment of managers to get the right ones and avoid severance payments. Better labour relations with workers e.g. EMS no contract in seven years? Avoid costly lawsuits. Cut red tape and bureaucracy give frontline workers more authority to make decisions.

Improve emergency medical services. Have an advanced care paramedic on every ambulance and add vehicles. Reduce funding to other services to keep taxes where they are. Avoid lawsuits reduce funding of social programs forcing province to fill gap. Encourage unemployed people to move to Alberta.

Area rating creates inequity and is a remnant of an unfortunate decision at amalgamation. It is time to get rid of area rating. I believe that our public libraries deserve increased funding to add resources and to allow for more or relocated buildings. There is wide variety across Hamilton in that area and the library still manages to offer outstanding services. Finally, myhamilton.ca is an inspired way to offer city of Hamilton services. This website/portal is probably the best work the City has done in years. Please continue to add services online and promote this unified vision of city and community coming together to promote Hamilton online. Your questionnaire asked about ec dev--myhamilton is the best strategy there

I don't necessarily want more services. I would be willing to pay for better roads and sewers. I have the feeling the city doesn't always receive value for money expended. People who use special services should be prepared to volunteer to help maintain them and control fees; e.g., tennis courts, ball fields, parks, arenas (I and my family have used them all)

I think that you should look after our disabled service better and maybe include darts in-house along with darts. our health care could use some attention and maybe our parks can be cleaner with all the weeds that are growing and making them look really crappy along with the other greenery in the city. What is wrong with the way they did parks before? Lower house taxes would also help cause one day, no one will be able to afford a house not to mention the city takes in tons of money in taxes which we do not see.

It is difficult to identify the most and least important services as they are all important! It is really hard place priority on services provided. They are all important, and would hate to see them decrease in service.

The only way to control cost is to cut the size of government. Staff must get leaner and services must be cut. Out source work to best providers. The city gets an awful lot of negative press on issues of staff versus Council. A more cohesive approach to moving us forward would be more effective.

Please stop expanding services that are only utilized by a small percentage of citizens. Bus routes to remote locations, the Hamilton public library (huge waste of tax dollars). We are already a welfare state and a city that punishes the middle working class. Increasing taxes and decreasing basic home essential services every year. 1 Bag of garbage with 2 kids and a dog, please punish the working families some more. Previous city governments make me regret buying a home and living in the very city I was born in.

Hospital care is at an all time low. I've never had to wait so long in emergency as I do now. It's completely ridiculous! My Dad was having heart trouble and was put on a stretcher

Want wood chips and better play equipment put in at Elmar park on Brigade Drive. We have lived here for 15 years and the stones have only been replaced with wood chips under the swing set. Now we need them under the play equipment. The stones cause sliding accidents and are a dusty nuisance. I don't take my kids there any more because I always have to wash all their clothes when we get home since they are covered with stone dust. Their running shoes get destroyed there too. We need more things for the kids to enjoy and places for adults to relax in shade.

Traffic is a huge issue. Several major arteries should not be under construction, with lanes closed, at the same time (eg. this summer Rymal Road, Mohawk Road, Upper Wentworth, West 5th, Upper Wellington). Please leave people somewhere to drive without having to reroute them through a residential area.

Operational reviews should ONLY be done if the results found result in recommendations that are likely to be enforced. We do not need to spend more money on reports that just add to more "red tape" and useless reports that do not improve any problems....EFFICIENCY and SUSTAINABILITY should be the primary goals...City Hall should be run like a business, NOT like a government office because we all know that government offices are more often than not run very inefficiently and wasteful policies are the norm...

Need to improve are waste management practices

No choice made under question 9 as these items are not of huge interest to me. The licensing department has been a joke for so long, we might as well not have it. Property standards are very subjective...in some cases enforcement has been pursued too zealously. The only noise issues I have had since moving here is about airplanes flying too low during the night and the number of overly sensitive car alarms which get triggered by animals. Animal control has been a headache for years. A few years ago, I received a threatening letter that my dogs' license had expired and legal action would follow if I did not renew immediately. The license had not expired...my dog had. They should have just asked if I still had a dog first.

I am very concerned about the Health care system. A friend of mine recently had to go to the emergency dept at St. Joe's and he was left in the hallway for 2 1/2 days! That is just so frightening to me. I really felt that he should have been admitted and looked after in a more dignified manner. He was told that there were no beds available for him. Well I would like to see my tax dollars spent in making sure there is room for sick people in our hospitals. I live in Urban Hamilton -- there is nothing that can be added from Area Rating onto my tax bill that isn't there. There should be two classifications - Urban and Rural for taxation rates.

No raises in salary or pension to elected officials

Finish Red Hill now - no more studies - they were useless and cost a fortune.

Stop wasting money on bids for games and site seeing trips to build relationships.

Focus on infrastructure repair sewers etc.

Stop transfer of welfare load of people from other municipalities i.e. Mississauga & Toronto.



More accountability and disclosure of spending No hidden budgets particularly expense accounts for elected staff.

Reduce taxes Hamilton has one of the highest tax bases in Canada Too much waste

Use the internet more like this survey to poll Hamiltonians on issues before the money is spent.

Improved transit is imperative to intensification. BRT or LRT should be our next big project, without increasing our already HUGE tax bills.

Here are my comments:

- Keep the police & fire budget increases to the cost of living.
- Contract out public works to reduce costs.
- Ensure that all city taxes are collected in a reasonable time, especially for new home developments. (you don't see a tax bill for almost a year).
- Hire auditors to check on the status of public works jobs and to check the accountability of workers and their supervisors, as to where they are and what they actually doing and hold the supervisors and workers accountable. I see lots of jobs in the city that are over manned and the workers sitting around in public works trucks with the engines running, drinking coffee and watching maybe one man working for hours at a time. This is a total waste of time, money and resources.

Tourism marketing should focus on the city of waterfalls concept - we need to capitalize and promote the beautiful open space we have to create a different image than 'steeltown'.

Survey would have been better with the effect of reduced services for each category.

When visiting other cities one of the most evident things I notice is the planning of new neighbourhoods with beautiful small forested areas. Hamilton does not seem to do that. The rail trail is beautiful but not always convenient for young families. Kitchener has done a beautiful job with their Beechwood and Doon areas.

I am very happy that we have a new Mayor. Perhaps with his leadership Hamilton might become a thriving community rather than having a reputation of one in five on social assistance and not contributing.

I was born and raised in this city and would love to see our city beautified. I am tired of all the negative publicity.

motivate everyone to work to their full potential and to take pride in the work that they are doing.

I would like to see more incentives in cleaning up the downtown area. As a new resident (6years) to Hamilton, living on the west mountain, the downtown area is not a pleasant place to shop. Too many dirty run down places in the downtown. Parking is also an issue in the downtown areas. Too costly, and having to keep running back to your car to plug meters is frustrating.

Consistency - City Council is not above the law that other city employees must abide by. Get the feeling that working in City Hall is not a very supportive environment

Area rating should be abandoned. As an example, people may not benefit directly from transit if they are located in a part of the city without transit, although they benefit indirectly because

people who take transit reduce traffic congestion and pollution for all of us. Area rating also hurts downtown development. Why do build in the downtown when you taxes will be lower in the former suburbs?

Hamilton is a nice city but it would be even nicer if the downtown is cleaner. Maybe the government should do something about the downtown. I know that some effort is being made but it is not enough.

There needs to be strict standards for empty properties. Just boarding it up makes our city look horrible, depressing and un-welcoming. It's hard to lure big business here when the area is boarded up almost everywhere you look. Also, much more strict punishment (community service) for graffiti offenders. Provide a contest for graffiti artists.

The city needs to find ways to tax the people who tax the system. ie somebody living in a 5000 sq foot home should get a surcharge in taxes..people doing better (solar or wind power rainwater use) should get a break. the city should find a norm for comfortable living . Don't believe anybody in city hall has the guts to even repeat this sentence. Look at the signs on Upper James (other roads) we still have them IT IS POLLUTION. Somebody needs to speak up and stand for things. In closing we do need an easy bike access up the mountain in the center of the city. one can ride to the west or to the east...trying to get up in the middle is brutal ( not impossible) I would use it 95 % of the time, now I end up way out east or way out west.

Enforce parking and speeding tickets by refusal of license renewal until fines are paid. We have lost too much revenue in the past by forgiving tickets etc. In areas of high vehicle traffic and parking issues, additional staff should be hired. The revenue from tickets is far greater than many realize considering people block fire hydrants, driveways and often park in no parking zones and too close to corners in residential areas adjacent to secondary educational facilities.

City employees that sit on committees after regular business hours should do so as a volunteer as the rest of us do, not book overtime for this.

You have a licensing problem, better fix it and soon. This issue will keep you busy for years to come. Do NOT consider adding any new bylaws until you can enforce the ones you have now. People want less government (or at least good government, even at the municipal level), not more - just for the sake of more. Let's figure out what we have, and begin the process of fixing what we have before expanding anything. Oh yes, and Animal Control is an utter and complete waste. Animal control should be based on a user pay system and all animals in the municipality should be taxed - not just dogs. When you purchase ANY domestic pet, you should pay a licensing levy. Why pick on K-9 owners exclusively, this is just wrong.

Many of these questions are set-up to get the desired response. More free fields are required if you really care about what people think.

Two-way traffic on James and John was obviously a bad idea in theory and worse in practice. The affect on GO buses alone should have been reason enough to leave the very good one-way arrangement alone.

Useful services like pools and libraries should be open on Sundays when most people have the time and inclination to use them.

City council must be more accountable. Listen to the citizens about concerns present, future and what's working for them.

Bulk garbage collection once a year is a must!! Bylaw enforcement is nonexistent on the west mountain. More tax breaks for seniors. Snow removal STILL too S L O W.  
One of the things I love about Hamilton is the ease and efficiency that one can drive from point A to point B. Please do not change any more one way streets to two ways!

I think more needs to be done for walkers, particularly in winter when many of the sidewalks are deplorable. The "bylaw" system is not working and the needs to take responsibility for them just as they do for the roads. CLEAN THE SIDEWALKS! Cut back on road cleaning. Some cities out West (Calgary for one) do not plow side streets at all and they get as much or more snow than Hamilton.

Council should be elected from the whole City. That way they would have a wider view, be less parochial, and make better long term decisions. They would then be able to do their real job of long term direction, vision, and spend less time meddling in detail.  
Staff needs to be encouraged to make common sense decisions, to gain bonuses by being more efficient, saving tax dollars, and looking at majority issues."

Downtown renewal is extremely important for the City of Hamilton. Reducing, but not eliminating, new developments in the City and focusing on brownfield site renewal is key to the success of the City's rebirth. The cost of developing new sites is high and the length of time before the city sees any return on those investments is long. With a brownfield site, the infrastructure (roads, sewers, etc) is already in place.

It is really up to the voters to find better councillors. We are being run by many unqualified, in it for themselves politician who don't give a dam about anything other than getting re-elected and promoting themselves up the political ladder.

Term limits would help. 2 terms max. Maybe a few councillors at-large.

Forget projects like the Lister Block. Start ripping down the older parts of the city that have been neglected by their owners for years. There is not a much value in heritage as many would have you think. Especially Hamilton heritage. Hamilton heritage is factories and steelmaking.

For several years now Hamilton has been the highest taxed city in Canada [McLean's magazine]. Its way past time we let some other city win this distinction. Taxes must be lowered or at least held where they are with no increase - no matter what services have to be pared back.

Build a large pond swimming pool (like Bronte Creek Prov Park) and have free swimming to make up for the polluted lake.

Cut all the grass in the parks so they can be used by people not rodents. License or catch all outdoor cats.

Remove perks for politicians like free golf, Hamilton Place, Copps etc.

Pesticide bylaw - does that include herbicides - if so say so, they are different chemicals - pesticides - maybe yes - herbicides no!

My comment is on area rating. - Where I live - my area rating and services are considered Ancaster. Yet my mill rate on my taxes is still the higher Hamilton. Does this make sense?

There should be a cost effective solution for parents who are interested in enrolling more than one child in recreation programs. I have four children and find it quite disturbing that there is not a multiple child discount.

Taxes can not continue to outpace inflation. Being able to retire in my home is more important to me than grants to special interest and flowers. 3% is unacceptable.

Higher accountability from office to its citizens with better auditing practices. I feel as a newer citizen Hamiltonians do not trust its Government one bit.

I think the items in questions four and five are important for very different reasons and therefore it is obvious that people will choose things like police service and EMS as most important over the library and crossing guards, however that does not give reason to get rid of these services. they belong in different categories altogether.

Should the City develop a marketing strategy to improve our image at the local, regional, national and international level? Not until the downtown core is presentable.

The Police Budget needs to be stabilized. Each year they continually get an increase and hire more staff yet every other department has to take a hit on their budget. Secondly, a closer prioritization of projects needs to take place for roads reconstruction/repaving. It appears that certain areas of the city get resurfacing down every few years when the roads appear to be in decent condition. The money could be better spent in another area of the city that needs it more. Why was it necessary to upgrade the Aberdeen/Markland/Bay area with larger sidewalks and centre island for flowers when it was perfectly fine before. The money could have been spent to beautify another area.

If you do not have public transit, you are not assessed for it on your tax bill, but if you have awful public transit, you are assessed as if it was comparable to better downtown service. That isn't fair. Poor evening & weekend service means people become discouraged from using public transit. Short route buses that go to Malls & don't connect with downtown are useless. (A bus that goes downtown & stops at the Malls on the way Would be useful.) Some suburbanites are cut off from the Bus & Go train station, from cultural events, museums, galleries, restaurants & shopping in both downtown Hamilton & their own area, & other suburbs.

Talk to the mayor of Mississauga Hazel M. Her city is beautiful and run well.

Developers receive better service than the public

More transparency in the planning and development dept... I believe an audit in Planning & Development is long overdue

Eliminating the one way streets downtown was a bad idea for traffic flow, it just makes it more difficult to get around downtown. I just hope that the remaining streets are not converted over. I would like to see the bulk garbage pickup brought back to 2 pickups a year.

Better transit to Ancaster / Dundas remote areas to reduce number of cars. Operational review of City Hall, streamline and reduce number of "managers" increase number of "work" force.

Taxes are too high, especially for fixed income and lower income residents. I hope when I retire I will be able to still remain in this area. I grew up here and would love to remain here. At the rate taxes and other costs to maintaining a home is escalating I'm not sure it will be possible. I'm sure all of the above services are important but at what cost to taxpayers I'm not sure.

Everybody wants a little more of the pie but eventually there won't be enough to go around.

More attention needs to be paid to heritage concerns. The forced amalgamation has not benefited the small and culturally rich towns that were stripped of their resources and services. Ancaster has abysmal bus service, frequently leaving people stranded or arriving late. There is more to Ancaster than Wilson Street and the Meadowlands, and the bus service should reflect this.

Better transit system in Ancaster Area - Not just to Meadowlands area but Ancaster core and links to downtown and mountain area

Make all 10 items identified by Environment Hamilton TOP priority. Allocate much more of budget to environmental concerns especially those relating to climate change.

Many of the services provided by the city could perhaps be better handled via private contracting with the city maintaining some control. This would free up valuable resources both human and financial to concentrate on the items which cannot and should not be compromised.

Reduce funding of social, recreation, and other programs and invest in economic development so we create good jobs in our city and we won't need as many social programs.

My foremost concern is for the city administrators to more diligently keep property taxes from increasing. Non-essential expenditures must be thoroughly monitored and eliminated. There are growing numbers of unemployed residents of this city as a result of many local layoffs within the private business community. These people, in particular, need to be spared a growing municipal tax burden.

Why can't the city canvas for sponsorships to supplement the cost of some non-essential services? eg: beautification of street mediums and annual outdoor ice rinks? There has to be some creative thinking exercised to find other ways to generate funds apart from constantly resorting to the residential tax kitty."

Provide Rapid Transit!

We are experiencing the effect of downloading and so many social costs with little ""breaks"" from either the Federal or Provincial Government. Good Luck to everyone in the continued ""battle"" to make our city a better place. I just gave a presentation to local MPP's staff regarding the myhamilton.ca portal and on how many great things are in Hamilton. I have been trying to market these good assets to many outsiders

I do support term limits for politicians in order to get some ""new blood"" into the mix and perhaps ""new ideas"" but also recognizing that experience is helpful in the mix. I do believe that appointments to committees or boards might be better served if these too had term limits. I volunteer on several committees

Public health programs in our city service all of our populations, but are critical to our high risk populations (like meal programs in the schools, teen pregnancy programs, etc.) and are desperately needed for prevention of disease and illness. We need more money dedicated to

social services to help lower SES populations receive education and/or skill training, receive child care at the same time, and improve health practices. We need a strong business development and tourism focus in order to support local business and encourage visitors. Our risk teens also need programs.

We should return to a Board of Control system where the board is elected at large over the entire city. We believe that such a system would avoid the many parochial problems we now have because many council members can only see the small picture i.e. their own ward problems. We need more vision of the whole city of the future and to think about where we will be in 20 years and not at the end of their 4 year term in office.

I think we really need to focus on smart growth planning and mixed land use in areas that are not currently zoned from them to make our communities more sustainable.

Reduce the amount of red tape required for the city to make decisions. Stop knee-jerk reactions to minor and/or uncommon issues that result in broad, overzealous policy changes, especially in the area of health and safety. Instead of discouraging the use of real-time "chat" software on the city computer network, settle on a standard and encourage employees to use it for collaboration, rather than attending costly, time-consuming meetings. If the city is serious about attracting tourism and keeping its citizens happy, repair neglected roadways in a timely manner.

The naming of Copps and Ivor Wynne stadiums should be sold to the highest bidder. If not WHY not. This is a source of revenue that we have neglected.

Enforce building permits for additions, garages and so on. Fire regulations are not looked after, many neighbors use open fire pits and smoke out there neighbors and often burn materials that leave a bad smell for hours. By law enforcement is important to ensure a well functioning, fare treated society that does not have to put up with people who think they can do what ever they like...

Better transit for Dundas please - a transit survey would be great.

A big no to the Liberty Energy incineration project - our air quality is already saturated.

Some current services which provide indirect benefit to the whole community like transit are currently area rated and should not be. It is a critical service for integrating and developing the economy of the community.

I am not sure that they are fair questions as one could easily have more than five services that one feels are equal in each category.

Animal control: have one policy in place for the entire city. Dogs should be allowed to roam free ONLY in fenced in areas. Dog owners are putting innocent people at risk in Dundas (through Warren Park entrance and Dundas Valley Conservation Area) by not holding their dogs on leash.

Transit: we need it. It has a bad reputation right now - only old people and students use it.

Green cart program: bring it to buildings ASAP.

Support entities like Green Venture who are helping the public better educate themselves about the environment but also to make Hamilton a better/cleaner place to live.

The transit in this city is appalling. On the occasions I have had to use the public transit system it is consistently late and infrequent. More effort needs to be made to make transit a viable alternative to driving

I live in Dundas; it is not well serviced by transit. We could do a lot more to get away from using the car and using more buses. Even providing free transit would be helpful. And making the roads friendlier for bicycles and people would also help with pollution and with movement of people and goods. Public spaces are also very important to me, with the controls on buildings, noise, and traffic that are needed to make these effective. We need to concentrate on building in the existing city, not expanding into the aerotropolis and so on. We need the farmland around us preserved for our food.

Area rating should be repealed; everyone in the city should chip in for things like public transit that benefit the city as a whole. Public transit needs some major attention; quite often the buses are too full to accept waiting passengers along the McMaster-Downtown corridor. There should be light rail, subway or something else fast along that corridor. The city should be aggressive in marketing a better image; this should start right in Hamilton. I moved here 4 years ago and have never seen a populace so negative toward their own city. After living in several other places, Hamilton is actually among the best and has tons of potential. The best advertising is word of mouth, starting with our own citizens.

I would like to see departments like animal control and parking performs their services with a more customer oriented approach. The same holds true for most services provided in the heart of the city. What a misnomer. A visit to city hall is about as pleasant as a kick in the teeth to most of us.

Difficult survey - for instance: Road Maintenance. I think there are too many wide one way streets, i.e. the quality of the road service is too high; do I say I am very satisfied or not satisfied? What about sidewalk maintenance after snow fall?

I use transit and I think they do a great job with the resources they have, but understand we need to double service/ridership - satisfied? or not satisfied?

Before we go promoting the city, we need to ensure infrastructure is in place for visitors to be able to safely move about on transit, bicycles, etc. so traffic calming should be a priority. The downtown suffers from excess arterial road capacity, etc...

We continue to hear about how the City is striving to make Hamilton a better, more inviting place for business and tourism. I think we should ensure that all of our decisions are tested against this as one of potentially many "guiding principles" that should be established by the City- should we invest in road improvement, of course! Should we invest in flowers for our medians, of course! Both of these things are little steps toward improving the quality and visual appeal of our city. Can we not set up a decision methodology of this sort to assist in both making and justifying our budget and funding choices? It will lend simplicity to the process for the decision makers and credibility to the decisions in the eyes of the people.

The City of Hamilton has a long way to go to provide accountable services to taxpayers. There seems to be a lot of wasteful spending, a perception of the "old boys" club and favoritism at City Hall. Hamilton has done exemplary work in their strides toward effective environmental practices i.e. organics program, keep up the good work.

Although Hamilton is now an amalgamated community, local programs and services are still very important to those communities who did not have a choice in joining Hamilton. Things like libraries and community centres are very important to local people."

Public Transit I feel has become a better in the last few years. Please continue to improve with this public service.

An incredible amount of expense was spent recruiting and hiring what was supposed to be top quality managers for the new City of Hamilton, yet we seem to spend millions of dollars hiring consultants to make decisions and tender plans for all types of projects. Let's let the professionals make decisions and submit them for approval or reduce the bureaucracy.

As a commuter, one of my most pressing concerns with the city is public transit. While I have few complaints with the actual bus service, and I'm happy to see hybrid buses hitting the streets, my real issue is with the necessity for it in the first place. I am an avid cyclist, and I would much rather cycle to work than ride the bus. However, the lack of bike paths and safe routes in Hamilton deter me from doing so. The heavy traffic on Main and King Streets makes it hazardous to cycle to work, and back routes are not always available or feasible, especially in inclement weather. I would like to see renewed interest in developing cycling paths similar to those in Vancouver in City Hall.

I have a pretty good understanding of the Recreation programs offered by the city and I think they are great! It would also be great to : make the subsidized rates and eligibility criteria known to the public through the Culture and Rec guide (rather than keep them a virtual secret to newcomers to the city or people newly interested in getting themselves or their family in shape) and there need to be more activities for children scheduled at the same time as activities for parents (aerobics or pool activities) to create a more accessible programs for local residents so that they can participate in the activities designed for them in the first place.

Recycle collection is getting to involve too much separation, too many separate contains or blue bags/boxes put to the curb, too much trouble. It's easier to toss it in the garbage. It seems you cannot even sort & separate the items and still contain them to one blue box as it gets rejected at the curb. I think that's getting a bit picky when one blue box, with items separated within, cannot be use.

I suppose it does not help that I'm new to the green containers but; I'm totally disgusted to see that you can put out a small green contain of kitchen scraps and the collectors cannot even take the time to give the container a bang & get all the waste out. They come back to the home owner half full of mold & rotten food.

Because global warming is becoming a huge problem. Create an Ad Campaign to show the benefits of planting trees.

The city needs more funding for more police officers.

I realize the difficulties involved, but in Dundas we have reached the limit of what our property taxes should be. This needs to be the overriding issue when budgets are set.

If good transit service was provided, I would support it.



Recover the money wasted on the Redhill Expressway through tolls (esp. on non-local transport trucks), and use that money to build back up everything that has been starved of cash.

Living in Flamborough we do not get a lot of the same services as the rest of the city -- however - Parks and Rec should have been mentioned in the list of 5 most important things provided by the city -- our ball diamonds in Freelon and Greensville are great - but our arenas are pathetic - - As a parent of a child who plays rep hockey in Flamborough I begrudge having to travel to Hamilton Mountain or Barton for a hockey practice - we need a new arena in Flamborough. I'm also disappointed that many of the rural ball diamonds have do not have access to clean drinking water for participants.

I think efficiency and proper planning are most important- make the dollars stretch There seems to be so much wasted spending and not a firm commitment to smart growth. i.e. Revitalization of Hunter Street Train Station and no carpark to get people to use- spending money on pesticides which kill and not having money to spend on Climate change energy conservation and air quality study.

I believe services should be reviewed to see if they are being efficient. Do firefighters need to go to all medical calls? If there were more paramedics on the road there would be better response time. There is also a need to evaluate the need for so many supervisors again I would prefer more people on the front line to save me than be doing paper work. Everyone working for the city needs to be more accountable for their actions. Some one not connected to a particular service needs to review that service to see if it can be more efficient. Workers should be encouraged to submit suggestions anonymously to improve where they work. If there is a lot of over time then it should be investigate also and action taken not just oh well attitude.

Why do I need to choose 5 each in questions 4 and 5? I consider more than 5 of the services listed to be essential and fewer than 5 to be "least important".

In question 6, I don't understand what "profitability" has to do with public services. In my understanding, public services are not intended to produce a profit, so as to remain affordable.

Planning is an important service provided by the municipal government; however, the City is not doing a very good job in this regard. There is too much suburban development which is causing traffic and environmental problems. For example, the heavy rains are flooding areas of Hamilton, Dundas and Burlington due to the lack of green space to absorb the water. Traffic is very heavy in Waterdown and the Meadowlands area of Ancaster and the Governors Road area of Dundas. Planning should include the remediation of brown fields and the inclusion of lots of green space. Planning should also include the recognition of public transit availability i.e.) Waterdown, Binbrook and the eastern parts of Stoney Creek.

Time to clean house, especially at city hall. We have way too many managers and not enough people who actually do the work. There is too much dead wood amongst the staff to effect any kind of a change. The cleaning needs to start at the top!!

Given that we have some of the highest property taxes in Ontario, the problems are a matter of not enough municipal resources, but how these are used. The city should be engaging synergies between the public, private and volunteer sectors, but always with the greater good of the city's people and environment in mind. It is critical that the city not fall prey to private interests that would seek to present theirs as a public interest (e.g. "developers" that would seek to enrich themselves further by paving over precious living land with generic, soulless and

unsustainable sprawl). Nor should the city allow itself to be held hostage to dogmatic right- or left-wing political theories on how best to create a good society.

We do not need more studies, commissions, plans and policy documents.

We need a livable, walkable, vibrant, culturally alive city with priority given to parks, transit, cultural facilities and libraries.

Employees who work for the city must understand that we are their customers. They must want to do a good job (and an honest job).

You must LOWER TAXES; they are absolutely out of control. I have not received a raise a work for 6 years and my taxes go up and my services go down. Decrease the pay of the FAT cats in city hall. Why am I paying more taxes than a person in Toronto? LOWER TAXES. I have four neighbours that had to move out of the survey because of high taxes you should be ashamed of your self.

Here are my comments:

- I think the city should provide ""green cart"" services to businesses and institutions as you do for residential areas.
- I'd like to see an ""anti-idling"" bylaw and/or an anti-idling education campaign and I would pay extra taxes to support it.
- I think we should get rid of the one-way streets. Two way traffic would work better for businesses.

One should pay for the services used on a user basis. There should be some tax base support but not the entire funding.

Outsource management of key systems that a City should not be running, the city is not an expert in these areas. Information Technology, Golf courses, road maintenance (including plowing), churches owed by the city...etc should be outsourced to experts in these areas that must be held accountable to performance by using a consistent RFP process and stringent contracts that guarantee cost reductions and have penalties to providers who don't keep those commitments.

Downtown must be dealt with. It is so sad to go to Jackson square on a Saturday and have stores closed. Parking downtown should be free or greatly reduced. Speaking from personal experience. The city is helpless when it comes to noise and property standards complaints. These bylaws are not enforced and tax payers who respect their neighbours suffer.

Make the entire city 'user friendly'. Eliminate all street side parking meters & enforce a reasonable 'tag'n'tow' two hour parking bylaw. That way every merchant can offer ""free"" parking. Stop screwing with the one-way streets that provided fast & efficient movement to & through the congested downtown area.

Investigate & pursue placing all recreational facilities adjacent to schools & open small neighbourhood libraries in every school. Get more use out of the schools through evening use."

I would expect to be given the opportunity to understand and agree with any new services added to my area and therefore my tax bill before they happened.

I would like a lot more emphasis on the use of public transit. Improvement to the downtown situation at the Gore where the buses are allowed to idle. Attention paid to the Dundas area which seems to be falling short on the transit system.

For question 3 & 6, it would depend on the cost of these measures. Sometimes it costs more than you would save to do these reviews. I don't believe in spending money on things like entertainment and sports facilities when it could be spent on affordable housing or things like fixing roads. Not everyone is a sports fan, but everyone has to drive on the roads.

Listen to the employees rather than the managers of the city departments. You will get a much better idea of how the departments are working.

Clean up the downtown area with the inappropriate businesses and signs. Need to encourage and welcome tourists to our fine city not scare them away.

You keep doing the operational studies but nothing ever changes - you can't expect to continue to use the same recipe and make a different dish, so change is necessary, but it appears impossible.

Dundas has an outdoor pool associated with its indoor pool. Close it? It never opens and is just an eyesore! The pool, despite upgrades, remains a poor facility.

I have greater concerns with this survey. How should we rate the top 5 key services? All items on the list are important, and none can be reduced or done away with. Many of the questions are also leading. What agenda is here? For this reason, I refused to answer questions 4 and 5. My concern here is that people will focus on things such as fire or EMS, and not public works. Do we get poor streets in exchange for new fire trucks?"

We need to raise the integrity level at City Hall (too many personal agendas) and communicate much better on an inter-departmental basis as often the right hand has no idea what the left hand is doing which causes a lot of work duplication/unnecessary work which amounts to wasted time and money.

More development of waterfront trails, they are great! Need to get the word out about them.

City Morale, how does anyone work efficiently, objectively with a sense of pride in an organization that has two different standards one for Councillors one for staff. The recent debacle emphasizes the need for an ethics manager in this city.

Some questions are too generic - i.e., it is always easy to ask for more, but we are aware that having more of one thing may mean less of something else, or may not be worth the cost associated. Perhaps some questions ought to be linked to the potential cost, or we could choose between real existing options. I.e., city marketing sounds good, but will it continue to sound good once we hear the cost, or consider what else might get bumped?

We currently pay for transit service. I am located at Kitty Murray Lane and Stonehenge Road, the closest bus service for people in our area is at the Home Depot/Tim Hortons road entrance. It would take approximately 45 to 60 minutes for me or anyone on my street to walk to receive the transit system. We also pay the highest taxes for the city but don't have the services that someone on the west mountain receives transit wise, and, we pay the same amount on our taxes! Also we were promised a park for our younger children on Moorland Crescent @ Gray Court Road 5 years ago, the mean age of the children on our street/area is approximately 5 years old but the closest park is over 1.5 km away, unsatisfied with this waiting game!!!

Garbage collection is a mess. Collectors are poorly trained or work to low level. Some services, such as Animal Control, should be abolished. We pay far too much for our services. There seems to be too many middle management positions within the city. Work would occur more efficiently in most depts if there were workers to "work" and not oversee. EMS as an example relies on autonomy and following pre-developed protocols. The need is not there for more than one or two supervisors per shift compared to the current 3-4. The cost of supervisory staff could be used to increase EMS coverage. Property standards should be strictly enforced especially in the core and north ends. Even vacant properties/buildings should have a neat/clean exterior (including / especially commercial industrial operations). This would give the city a cleaner, friendly appearance and perhaps increase tourist/potential property owner appeal.

I would like to see improved HSR transit from the Ancaster Meadowlands terminal, primarily east (into Ancaster centre, Walmart area, and Tradewinds industrial park) as well as direct transit downtown and to GO centre. From Ancaster to the later GO centre hub requires transfers and takes a length amount of time. I'm biased 'cause I live in Ancaster, but I do believe Ancaster is surely one of the faster growing areas of Hamilton, and I don't think the transit options have kept up to population demands.

Additionally, I recently had a developer build a new home in Ancaster. I am appalled by shabby quality and lackluster building code enforcement by the City of Hamilton. The City of Hamilton passes homes that do not satisfy OBC requirements.

Rather than promoting our image abroad - we should focus on improving our image here. Improve support to local business; Support initiatives and services that make our city vibrant, interesting and creative.

By Law enforcement is terrible, I have called many times to report infractions on my street and have never had a resolution. In some cases I wasn't even informed that the by lay officers were on holidays so nothing could be done.

In house staff need to be utilized in this regard. Presently we look to consulting companies far more often and at a far greater cost than using people that are already on payroll. Frontline staff are a resource that rarely gets used, buy using frontline staff this method pays off in two fold, expertise in their field and it also creates employee ownership.

I am tired of paying over \$4000 in taxes for garbage collection only. I have no sidewalks, no sewers, no gas, no cable, no water, no buses, and no public pool. City hall needs to take a good look at the huge taxes that they charge to rural Flamborough residents. We are getting the shaft big time!

When I am walking on a shopping street and it happens to be garbage day, I find the number of garbage bags on the sidewalk, waiting for pick-up, very disgusting. Isn't there some way to have a large dumpster for local business so it does not have to sit on the sidewalk, or at least insist on garbage cans?

The city should definitely promote itself nationally, and internationally. Most people know nothing about the city other than the fact that there are steel factories. "

Hamilton needs better transit. The city needs to promote and reinvigorate its downtown areas. It would be nice to see the feel of Locke or Hess spread further.

Identifying least important is a relative exercise, although I completed it. I would be careful about drawing too many conclusions from the comparison between MOST and LEAST important.

The police need to have a stronger visual presence in the downtown areas. I never see them in my neighborhood. The only time I see a cop in my hood is when a crime has occurred or when there's a parade. Also, it should be made incumbent upon those holding parades to inform the neighborhood of any pending festivals or other possible inconveniences so that folks can plan around them. My hood is constantly being inconvenienced by the local church holding parades that block traffic and festivals that go on into the night with no concern for noise levels."

Compliments on the video that introduces this survey. It's the BEST piece of marketing I've seen yet on Hamilton!!

I would advise the city to finally concentrate efforts to revitalize downtown Hamilton. Marketing the city can only happen after serious steps in the right direction have taken place. A city with a decaying centre makes for a divided city with no communal heart. We need to get the civic pride back and clean up corruption, inefficiency, and self interests. Thank you for providing this survey, I haven't felt optimistic about Hamilton in 20 years. Yet the website needs to be re-done its too busy. Difficult to locate information.

Tax revenue must be used to provide the full range of essential public services. I would try to save money by cutting back on expansionary planning which only serves the interests of developers.

You ask if I support operational reviews and I responded: Yes. However, such reviews must be effective. Will this survey provide useful, analyzable data? Some research suggests that a rating scale should have a MINIMUM of 7 points in order to extract any decent data, amenable to analysis.

Initiate Family Friendly policies: programs for parents with young children like Parent-Child Mother Goose Program should be available to all families with babies and young children; programs for families with school-age children can build on the programs for families with babies and young children.

Initiate energy saving and earth-friendly incentives and programs to make Hamilton a leader in the field - residentially, commercially and industrially. We need green retrofit programs, alternatives to fossil fuels, improved transit options, etc.

I believe the public transit system is horrible. I fellow employee takes the bus to work and it takes him two hours to get from Garth and Stone Church to Kenilworth and Beach rd. This is normally a twenty minute car ride. I believe more people would take public transit if it was more efficient. Another sore spot with me is property taxes. Just because my house looks better than my neighbours, why should I have to pay more? I do not use more in services than they do! I pay \$3100 /year and my neighbour with a larger lot pays \$2800/year. Is this fair? My family and I are seriously considering relocating to Brantford. Also please tear down vacant buildings in the downtown core, these spots could be used for parking or new development

I think the tax payers should KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN ALL MEETING at City Hall like you promised at election time ? I thing you are to low key , you should tell the tax payers what you think , and stick to it ,( not always ), leaving room to flip-flop as it seems you have done so far.

I live in Waterdown. We have a very small library and no recreational facility. I would like to see both in this community.

Waterdown is part of the City of Hamilton and has been for quite some time now. Yet we still do not have any public transit to and from Hamilton, be it downtown or on the mountain. It would be very helpful if residents had the opportunity to get from Waterdown to Hamilton (perhaps via HSR) and vice versa. This would also help the environment as public transportation decreases the amount of pollution emitted into the air by way of more people taking the HSR rather than cars.

Library services in Waterdown are totally inadequate. Library is closed on Fridays, this is not acceptable. Sitting area to read is uncomfortable (chairs need to be replaced) and very limited. Now that green bins take care of most of waste disposal, why don't we reduce pick-up of regular garbage (non-recycleable stuff) to every other week instead of weekly to reduce costs, especially during winter months when odours are not a factor. Discontinue pesticide use where possible to help the environment and reduce costs ...like 250 other cities (including Toronto) have done."

I would also like to see a transit service that would take you into Burlington either by Waterdown or Kerns and to the Go station.

I think the large garbage pick up is ridiculous. I now go to Halton Recycling on Bronte. There I can pay 10.00 and drop off all my recyclables. We need a facility like that.

I also haven't seen anything the City does for our special needs population. There is a summer only special needs co-ordinator for Rec. that should be full-time given our population. The City also needs to provide subsidized space for non profit groups in their buildings. Burlington does both these.

We have no transit system in Waterdown, and as a growing number of people are moving to this area the infrastructure is not keeping up with the growth. Prior to becoming part of Hamilton we had regular 'large item' garbage pick up.

Give us a bus connection to Hamilton and Burlington, where we can then transfer to local transportation - thus saving emissions to the environment.

I wish you a successful year in office - please do not make me regret my decision to vote you in. I hope you will take the transit issue seriously. People in Flamborough voted against the merger with Hamilton - show us that the government's ignorance of our majority vote did not fall on deaf ears, but work to make our tax dollars help us in the area

This has possibly already been suggested, but, why not put the flower beds in the city up for adoption, in much the same way the province has put sections of highways up for adoption. In this way the city works dept. would have more time to attend to other works of more importance and the general populace could pride themselves in beautifying the city. This would also save the city taxpayers over \$300,000 per year.

Better Driving access to Toronto - ie bridge access over lake would significantly increase population of people willing to move to Hamilton, the current commute is too long, but ability does exist to significantly cut commute time - recognize significant cost, but believe increase in population/real estate sales would pay off.

Would like to see improvements in the capabilities of the sewer systems to better handle extreme storms which seem to be happening more frequently lately and probably in the future.

Beautify city with more flowers i.e. boulevard flowers, more flowers in parks. Expand airport development to provide economic growth/encourage business. -We don't need to waste money on an integrity commissioner

Glen Peace is an excellent City Manager. Do not use him as a scapegoat to look like you are addressing the problems at City Hall. We need competent stable leadership which Glen and Fred can provide.

I would check into the overspending and financial errors of duplicate payments that have caused this City much disgrace. I would get rid of the dead wood around City Hall and make everyone accountable for what they spend. The way this City has been operated in the past would certainly not happen in the business world. There would be some people terminated because of the errors that have gone on that have been kept a secret to the people of this City.

I think that with our new Mayor, Hamilton, has a Big chance of turning its image around. I would keep a keen eye on development, both Industrial and Residential, and make our City image a proud place to live and work. Now a lot of people do not feel that loyalty. It is Sad.

The state of the parks for our children is disgusting. I have to pick glass and other unfavorable objects out of the stones before my children can play. They are unsanitary and too many teens hang out where little kids play and they destroy their playing equipment. The city needs to get together and agree on projects to beautify the city.

Before the City fathers can improve the City, they must take care of business internally. Integrity and honesty are vital aspects of a respected government. Citizens of Hamilton are tired of incompetence and 'flavor of the day' attitudes.

Like the ads say-"you have to earn respect" GOOD LUCK

More private contractors to replace inefficient city works

Privatize City Hall outside workers. They get paid too much and they always send too many workers to do a job. Someone is always watching the other's work. Just stop by a Tim Hortons. They sit in there for ages in the winter. They leave their trucks running so that they don't get into a cold truck when they leave. Today I watched three guys cleaning the snow at the bus stops. If they went any slower they would be in reverse. Let's privatize everything we can and stop the waste now. Also, I would like to see voice mail done away with at City Hall. Employees do not pick up the phone even if they have time to. They just let it go into voice mail & they screen calls. City Hall has become a fortress. Employees love it. It's much too expensive.

The city needs to hold contractors more responsible for their work. I have observed many seams in the asphalt of many of our roads. These seams are where the roads typically begin to deteriorate. We should be getting good value for our money. Private enterprises cutting into a road in good condition should be held responsible for the longevity of the repair. Bus service is too frequent. I'm tired of seeing empty busses driving around. I already pay for 2 cars. Why am I subsidizing other people's transportation needs?

Area rating should be abolished. We need to get over the area rating and share everything equally. This would be an interesting report to find out how much each area would change if we shared all equally.

Though I feel as though I am not much help- I feel that the downtown core needs an expensive (though worthwhile) facelift. Abandoned buildings, police services and diverse local business need to be tended to.

THE CITY HALL PERSONEL MUST BE SURE THEY KNOW WHAT THEIR JOB DUTIES ARE

Teenage recreation programs! Make Council meetings more accessible and understandable for teens. Crack down on garbage burning in the ethnic areas of the North End.

Buses should be free and promoted on Smog Days.

Item 3 blocks local, regional, national international together - first we should get a local sense of self consolidated, namely heighten awareness of the importance of Hamilton to the existence of Ancaster, Dundas and Stoney Creek which could not be so exclusive without the dirty old city. Items 4 & 5 force unfortunate choices and are unevenly weighted, better a chart as presented in Item 7. There are no unimportant services in the list provided.

Neighborhood watch associations are starting throughout Hamilton again. I believe that if the city supported these associations with money and support, with time, the associations will be able to handle a lot of the things that are overwhelming to the city. By bringing the community together, better notification can be made about the effectiveness of programs the city has, and the activities happening in the community. Supporting the businesses within the community is good for the city as well. Crime reduction and better reporting will increase, and neighborhood social involvement will begin, to help prevent crime.

The other issue I see is the division of police services. Each police station or dispatch employee has different protocol

The city should stop enforcing by-laws on a complaint basis. People break the laws and don't care because they know that most of the time, nobody will bother about complaining. So we can often see people parking in illegal places, blocking traffic with their four blinkers on.

I feel the city has allowed the Health Dept. to far exceed it's mandate. There has been hundreds of thousands of dollars budgeted through the Health Dept. to develop & enforce the smoking bylaw, when this money could have and should have been spent on more important matters, such as infrastructure, watermains,etc...Also the problem of eldercare is much more important than somebody smoking. The shortage of Long Term Care is tragic; there are more important matters for the Health Dept. than worrying about people smoking. They are not the social police, and their arrogance is costing everyone, the elderly, CCAS, your mom, my dad, etc. Please note I am not a smoker since 1973 but I just see our money being wasted.

Council should set strategic directions for the City and then let the various departments accomplish those directions. Council needs to STOP micro-managing programs. We need to have a strong council who is willing to take a good look at crime prevention, policing, poverty issues property standards. We need to educate people that a clean and attractive safe city will bring economic improvements. Education is a must!!



I like this survey and website- great idea. Bring back the flowers in the medians- no rocks! Encourage community groups like "Friends of Gage Park". We can help in our own communities.

Putting more emphasis on outside activities for children would be very welcome. For example - a skateboard park at the south-west corner of HAAA Grounds; or renewing the tennis programs at city courts.

James Street is becoming a vibrant and exciting area to visit. We need more parking for the downtown, and fewer commissionaire zealots. If you want the community to patronize communities one needs to make them welcome. Locke Street also has poor access to parking. Perhaps free parking on Saturday and Sunday. Revitalizing neighbourhoods should be done in a thoughtful intelligent way. Street people in the core frightens older people to come downtown.

The Core needs a transfusion of elegance to attract residents and tourists, so get rid of the peep shows and cheap stores and cruddy bars. Police are doing a fine job with panhandling but cruddy shops attract cruddy people. Peripherally, we need to attract new businesses like the pork plant that we lost, so it's ok to offer incentives. Otherwise, this is a great city geographically, architecturally, gastronomically, entertainment wise and so on.

I find the above survey very self serving, a few of the service categories chosen here seem off track for creating a better city. I don't see a lot of wild animals running around in need of control, but I do see a lot of zombie-like homeless people begging for money (in front of all the downtown dollar stores and rundown abandoned buildings) in need of social assistance. City hall, for years, has had a hard time getting it's priorities straight.

Be fair to your Union employees, and do not hire non-unionized labour.

I think that the city needs to have crossing guards, and police need to crack down on speeders and racers down city streets. I am so tired of hearing about elderly residents being hit by drag racers in the city core. How many people have to die before there is the proper reinforcement? please, please, please let residents of individual neighborhoods decide whether they want to pay through their property taxes for removal of snow from municipal sidewalks by the municipality. I live in Westdale, and I think that Westdale residents (South Westdale and North Westdale separately) should be given a chance to decide by referendum whether they want this service. This is really important. People like me with osteoporosis risk a fall that will break a hip and cause serious long-term damage to health, because so many absentee landlords renting "single-family dwellings" to students do not see to it that the municipal sidewalks are cleared in front of their property. The snow clearing by-law is a clumsy instrument for getting the sidewalk cleared.

You are charge in the over scheme of things property tax which a proportion does go to cover the cost. I do believe that it is unfair and if push came to shove (legally) the way the city implements a greater mill rate for some areas than others (mill rate/taxes where higher for Westdale last year than other areas in Hamilton) when the services are the same and yet are taxes went higher than in other areas -considering that this area is a old well established area and the extra tax burden on families is just too much. Since the overall assessment went up on all the houses the extra mill rate did not help. The mill rate should be the same for ALL residential properties in Hamilton with NO DISCRIMINATION!

Q.4&5 - of the 14 items all of which are important to residents of this city, the design of the question makes it almost impossible to provide useful answers. It would have been more useful if one were asked to rank each item in order of importance. The choice of being blind or deaf is not a salubrious one. Perhaps, in addition to periodic surveys, the City should periodically tell us.

What your city did to improve your life in the last quarter. Let us know what "our employees" are doing for us and how efficiently they are doing it. How much are they saving/costing us, and are they as good as or worse than the neighboring cities. What have we got to be proud of?

Bike lanes on King and Main should be extended across the whole city; more bike lanes should be put in especially on two way streets. Public transit should be extended into the outskirts of the city or the amalgamated places where no hsr bus currently goes (ie Binbrook, to the Hamilton airport), make the beeline bus run all day not stop running between 11:30 and 1 when most students are going to McMaster, better service on Sunday and holidays to Dundas and Ancaster.

Council and city departments should work together better--there is too much ignoring of instructions and/or recommendations. Common sense needs to be used eg in tendering and signing contracts. I can't believe successful businesses can operate in the manner the city seems to.

THE CITY IS BENT ON CONSTRUCTING STAIRS FROM THE RAIL TRAIL TO MTN BROW BLVD AND MARGATE INTERSECTION. MTN BROW RESIDENT'S DON'T WANT OR NEED STAIRS,ANYWHERE FROM OAKCREST TO MOHAWKS RDS. HALF MILLION IS BUDGETED FOR THESE STAIRS. IN 2006 MORE MONEY WAS BUDGETED AND 2007 MORE MONIES WILL BE NEEDED. THIS IS A WASTE OF TAX PAYERS DOLLARS FOR STAIRS NOT NEEDED OR NECESSARY. EXPENDITURES LIKE THIS MUST BE STOPPED

As usual these types of forms are inadequate to express things of concern to me. For example picking the least important service is a stupid idea, as almost everything is important to someone. Question 9 does not consider people do not know what licensing people do, or animal control people do or what property standards entails. Basically I am unhappy with the way the city is developing by closing egress roads such as Mud Street and Albion road. City planners are doing a lousy job of keeping the city easy to get around in. I know our topography is a challenge.

Environmental and ecological issues should be paramount. Attract sustainable businesses. Tax and penalize the polluters. Plan for the future, not for the desires of a few (Meadowlands?). Initiate programs that value conservation and energy use reduction. Educate the public on decreasing emissions.

Under transit I put a 1 in place to represent both the abysmally poor public transit system, and the gigantic cluster of molasses that is downtown Hamilton any given day of the week during rush hour since the two way traffic has been instituted on James and John.

Under road maintenance I placed a 2 not because the overall quality of roads are poor; but because obvious problems in the roads (such as the massive dip on Kenilworth just as you get off of Burlington street) often takes months to repair, while I'll see multiple other road maintenance projects on what are currently acceptable roads start, finish, and move just barely up the street in that time.

The planning 'guru' that was responsible for scheduling roadwork for most of the summer 2006 on the mountain was shortsighted and ignorant. Over a span of one hour, on one afternoon, late last July, I encountered construction on Fennell, Mohawk, Stonechurch, and Rymal Roads. (read: ALL major east-west mountain thoroughfares other than the Linc) This oversight was inexcusable and frustrated thousands of mountain residents for several months. Please, roll up a copy of the Spec and whack those responsible on their noses and say "NO!" - Thanks. There is a need for tighter enforcement on animals at large -- dogs and cats included. Cat licensing should be absolutely mandatory.

SINCE you came out with the green boxes I have no more black garbage bags it's either blue or green box. I think people are lazy and they should be charged pre bag. The only garbage I do have is KITTY waist' if you tell me that I can put it in the green box then I will have no garbage. I think the city has to be more assertive with people. THANK YOU.

Clean up that FIASCO at city hall and get rid of the showboating city Councillors that leak confidential documents and care only about their political future and little else.

HSR raise pay per ride fares- reduce mthly/yearly passes>creates loyalty. Seek sponsors for median flower beds & planting costs>city pays for signs. Slot revenue is city revenue. Ti-Cats should help pay for Ivor Wynne repairs-the prices they charge for food & drink could pay that in a game or two. Fix Pinky Lewis it's for kids. Get sponsors for Auchmar or lease it to a business. Get volunteers for outdoor rinks. Lease out St. Marks to a business, let them renovate. Fund the Children's museum, children are what the future is about. Be more aggressive on fine collections, we have much owed. Involve Mohawk, Mac & High Schools in ideas for saving money while improving services. The ideas are out there.

Your CMT team needs to decide if Direct Service deliverables are the priority to the citizens (which of course it should be) and then place the focus on these services and not the internal departments that seem to be running the place. This should be the first review conducted. The inter relationship between the direct service delivery programs and the supporting divisions. The policies and procedures that are put in place by the supporting divisions in no way help or advance the ability of the direct service delivery sections operate with efficiency and effectiveness to deliver the services most wanted by the general public, Police, EMS and Public Works direct deliverables i.e. waste, parks, roads etc.

The most important issues facing Council are: (1) reduction of property taxes (2) development of commercial lands around highways/airport (past city planners lost a glorious opportunity before the LINC was built - there is very little commercial spin off around the LINC), (3) radically changing downtown to weed out the unattractive / and make it people-friendly (like Hess Village, but expanded with more green space).

Several of your questions did not include parks, recreation and all did not especially include culture.

I believe staff performance should be scrutinized more heavily. It is easy to hide mistakes that cost thousands and would not be tolerated in the public sector while serving in a public organization.

Hire local contractors, not out-of-towners. Have expectations for citizens and consequences for noncompliance to by-laws. There is something wrong, if by-law enforcement employees aren't making money for the city. Set standards and enforce them. I just moved back to Hamilton after

living in Haldimand for almost 30 years and the thing I notice most, is a lack of pride. There seems to be a "Me First " attitude. Living in the shadow of Toronto, we must be better than Toronto in some ways. We can be safer, cleaner, and friendlier, more focused - a nicer place to live and work.

Some of these questions lack information. For example, why would the city not develop a marketing strategy or conduct operational reviews? To answer a question properly, it would help to list a few of the predicted pros and cons of these choices.

We are way over taxed for the services we receive city hall sticks it political nose to often in areas it shouldn't such as federal or provincial programs or the city tries to pick up the slack when other governments reduce or cut service. the city must get back to basics we can't and should not try to be Toronto, we have to build on our strengths . Just because Toronto offers a program or service we should not follow. Government can't cater to every special interest group. I feel that since I do not know the functions of some departments I have not given them the rating they deserve. I think the gardens at intersections should be maintained and those converted to gravel should be brought back. The gravel looks depressing. Our streets on the west mountain are in an awful state of disrepair.

Increase the cost of bus fares and passes to make the cost of using public transit more comparable to the costs that those who must drive, in order to get to work or leave to live in another municipality, have to endure with gas, insurance and maintenance expenses.

We definitely need to do major road repairs. That is a must. There are far better roads in the country. I think we should deal with programs for the people who need them as well. Waiting time in emergency should also be lessened. We should be proud of our city and the people in it and our services.

I do not believe in contracting out. As an example, no snow to clear should mean that staff can be put to work correcting problems in other areas. I believe the city needs to spend more money on the well being of the inner city community. I am in a fat cat area, we should not be the only ones with beautiful flowers in the road islands. Either encourage the business community to help here or take it out of my taxes. I resent food banks as an answer to poverty, as it means that supermarkets make a killing at the expense of the poor, I hate the feel good factor that sees this as a solution. Transit before roads and keep the fees lower, not higher and increase routes and runs. I am pleased with the new council so far. Keep up the caring.

I think that we need red light cameras at many intersections. Everyday I see people running red lights. We also need more advance green or left turn signals, it would enhance traffic flow. Get rid of parking meters in the whole city, and allow people to park as long as they want to allow full and free access to local businesses and residences. Off curbside parking everywhere. In cases of break and enter or reported trespassing, the police should at the very least let the complainant know if or when a case has been terminated or closed. I would like to see a greater effort on the recycling and greening programs. Often my green box doesn't get emptied or I get nasty notes from the blue box collectors. I do my best within the parameters  
Stop bringing refugees in, kill amalgamation, and develop the inner city.

Run city Hall like a business. Our pockets have limits. Our representatives should represent us and not their own ideas.

We need to do a much better job of promoting Hamilton as a place to visit and change the view

All the city services are important. is it possible that some services, such as transit, could be provided by a non-profit company? it is very difficult to decide what is "most" or "least" important.

We need to do more development of neighborhoods - make them look more attractive with flower boxes, clean sidewalks, benches etc. Support the arts more - this is where we can attract more tourists. Develop a church tour and have local choirs singing in them. I went to Ireland last year and their churches have become tourist areas with tours and events going on in them - our churches have historical significance. Hire some consultants/better people/T.O. people to develop the entertainment venues we have- whoever (HECFI?) is doing a pretty lousy job - we need some innovation there and the restaurants to support it. T.O. was once where we are - "

As a senior who depends on public transit I am most unhappy with the service in Dundas. The busses only run every hour except rush hour and it is difficult to make connections. I would like the service back as it was as both myself and my family depend on it for work and shopping etc.

Bus service many times I see them , there is ON ONE on them could we not run smaller buses? Road and service crews , I see one guy working 5five or six watching , why? The roads are falling apart cold patch should never be used . most road cuts end up pot holes why can't they be fixed right, What is it with the stoplights in Dundas who did such a thing? who is looking after the roads , Hat St. and Oglivie, Oglivie and Governors Rd. Who allows high density housing with no road improvements? Who allows 3 schools to be built next to one another and only a 2 lane road , some schools can't get the buses off the road to unload the kids , All in all where are the planers myself I don't think we have any , they may have a job as a planer but poor show.

Police service. We don't need more police officers. There are too many officers doing fluff jobs get them in a cruiser doing real police work."

I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS AND INDIGENTS. IT SEEMS THAT WE WANT PEOPLE TO SETTLE IN CANADA BUT DON'T FOLLOW UP TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE FOUND SUITABLE WORK OR TRAINING. THE DRUG PROBLEMS HERE ARE HORENDOUS. I LIVE IN THE SUBURBS AND RARELY GO DOWNTOWN BECAUSE OF THE UGLY BUILDINGS THAT SHOULD BE FIXED OR TORN DOWN.

A comprehensive Kyoto plan for the city should be the major priority for the city and once again this most serious of issues isn't even mentioned. I guess our elected officials don't really care or are severely out of touch.

Police cost too much money and large increases each year do not solve this. Cut their budget and let them become creative in how they operate. They have been running the mayor for to many years. There are many ways to operate with less money and do not let then threaten the citizens of Hamilton each year.

I lived in Westdale for years prior to moving to Dundas. I found it appalling that the tennis court nets at Westdale HS stopped being put up. So, I had to drive to Highland School in Dundas to play. Our recreation centres are an embarrassment that do almost nothing to attract Hamiltonians into a healthy active lifestyle. The biggest complaint I hear about this City is that there is nothing to do in the evenings (other than hit the bars) Why?...because hours of operation are terrible (although I hear the AGH has smartened up and extended its hours),

parks close at sunset, fields sit empty and offer little, & recreation centres are an eyesore offering little to anyone but children.

Since I am a Flamborough resident, many questions are based on services not received directly. I do not wish to pay more taxes to Hamilton in any form for any reason. Let those who receive the service pay for them until equity is achieved.

I wish City council could act responsibly for the entire community rather than looking out for themselves first and worrying about reelection not what is best for Hamilton

Three consecutive tax increases with NO increase in service. The roads are in awful condition. We have no evidence of economic development. Abandoned buildings are left to decay.

I enjoyed living in Hamilton. I did not mention Animal Control, an important function, because enforcement of licensing has not been a priority. This ignores a source of revenue which could fund a unit such as Calgary's, which has been immensely successful. Until enforcement of licensing, leashing and other protocol regulations are taken seriously by the City, AC is just spinning its wheels and playing catch-up. Otherwise, the City is doing OK. Downtown needs to be cleaned up and somehow, citizens should be encouraged to live there. All the developers who are holding properties should be forced to maintain or develop them. Some have been sitting for decades and are an eyesore. Good luck to Hamilton, a well kept secret in Ontario!

Nowhere in the above survey do you ask about the value of delivery. I would like to be asked to provide a weighting of where the City's efforts should be in terms of resources. Example: Licensing and by-law enforcement is good, but not at a horrendous cost or poor effect. These questions should not be framed as either/or.

With regards to the marketing strategy. I think we need to improve the city first, then we'll have something to market.

All of the services provided by the city are equally important. However, there are areas where the City can and should improve services such as public transit, parks and green spaces, tree planting, bike lanes, etc., but especially public transit, including train service to and from Hamilton.

I found the rating of the five most and least important services a nonsensical exercise to fill out. Who in their right mind would say that fire and police services are least important - they're all important (except maybe for animal control), but even here, if the service were deleted we would have a crisis on our hands. Surely our fine city is not facing these kinds of choices, so why rank them? We seem to have lost all perspective on the meaning of a quality of life in our city and the 'lowest price is the law.' Please raise my taxes before cutting any services - yes, that's right, I said raise my taxes. I hope City Hall does the right thing. What we want is happy and efficient workers and services irrespective of cost.

Repeal our breed ban

I am surprised that there is nowhere to identify the environment as an issue. We should now have no hesitation in putting the environment first in developing policy, programs, taxation and "economic development". Public transit should therefore be a very high priority for this city, as well as any policies that would encourage and support biking, and energy savings, both within city government offices, facilities, as well as encouraging citizens and businesses in energy

conservation. Food security and natural habitat is also very important now and especially for the future of our city and our children and grandchildren, thus intensification within the city and expanding green belt and protecting agricultural lands is vital.

I am appalled that there could even be a bylaw considered to muzzle all dogs. Is the mayor kidding? It's cruel and uncalled for to even consider it No dog should be muzzled not even a pitbull. I am for stricter screening of dog potential owners. How often does a dog bit? The % is very small. Why doesn't the mayor go after wife beaters or try to have the law changed to keep a stocking husband or boyfriend away from his prey. With all due respect the mayor must not have a dog, at least not a dog that he cares about.

## Jobs, Growth and Economic Opportunity

*Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how the City could improve its ability to attract and retain jobs and economic opportunities?*

### Responses

Economic Development is important but needs to be retained with Planning to ensure proper and appropriate long term strategic growth and development. Given Ec. Dev. needs more staff and money, also needs an influx of new thinking and approaches to development. Stop putting all our eggs in one basket (Aerotropolis, Commonwealth Games, Maple Leaf Foods, Downtown Casino, a hockey franchise, Lister Block, etc.) Q2 implies Planning holds Economic Development back. That is incorrect to communicate. The two SHOULD operate together. Under Vision 2020 and Triple Bottom Line implementation.

It's okay to plan for the near future but 20 years down the road is a little overkill when there are so many other things that need immediate attention.

I don't like to answer questions without having the relevant details/ background in hand - so not knowing how much resources are going into certain activities or how well those resources are being utilized I can't give thoughtful or informed answers.

Strategic Planning - of course we should do it - but it is only useful if you follow the plans. Half of the best and most progressive recommendations in Vision 2020 sit on the shelf. in the meantime council has thumbed it's collective nose at past planning by expanding the urban area in Glanbrook unnecessarily and pushing the Aerotropolis. Don't bother planning unless you intend to follow the plan.

You need to develop economic opportunities where people are going to want to work. Nice areas to work in with easy access to existing road systems. It is essential that Hamilton starts to encourage businesses to move here and relieve some of the residential tax burden.

Airport and greenfield development should stop until future generations can obtain a more balanced picture of what sustainable development is. Old-fashioned real estate developers must adapt or retire before they do more damage to the city.

Warehouses employ few people and encourage the importation of high margin, low quality goods that are distributed by multi-national corporations. Warehouses should pay more property taxes in Ontario and subsidize manufacturing.

The Bank of Canada should provide no interest loans to municipalities for sustainable infrastructure improvements.

MORE ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE SPENT ON THE ATHLETES IN HAMILTON TO KEEP THEM HERE, WHETHER PROVIDING BETTER PLAYING/TRAINING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT OR PROGRAMS.

Please only support events that will pay for themselves, I'm tired of money being wasted on arts and art galleries



You need to support local agri- business and farmers! Due to the greenbelt, farmers cannot sell their property for subdivision. Farmers cannot make money on their property so they allow good land to lay fallow and weed covered. Money and resources need to be directed to farmers if the city wants to attract tourists to the area!

Look at the employment opportunities outlined in the Electric City report by R Gilbert. It is the quickest way to both generate large numbers of jobs without requiring large "employment lands" development, as well as ensuring our energy self sufficiency.

Buying local AND helping farmers keep there land should be of the most importance north of Parkside drive. Flamborough East and West should be preserved as a greenbelt and not hacked away in to townhouses. Apples can only be bought from a local farmer if the farm stays a farm! I buy local from May to October all produce and find less options every year due to sprawl.

The city planning department certainly can not do the job of attracting economic growth. Economic growth needs to be a high priority without destroying our outline areas. Hamilton should not grow at the expense of the outline area community. Refocusing economic growth in the other areas, such as downtown. Hire people who know what they are doing who know how to bring business to Hamilton. We obviously do not have those type of people working for the city. Business know how to attract business not politicians.

Having lived in Waterdown all of my life, I see the impacts of greenfield development all around me. The social and environmental impacts are unwelcome. Hamilton must not allow any development in previously undeveloped areas such as forests and agricultural land. Strategies that have worked in European nations with high density populations need to be adopted such as high density housing and housing developments where people do not have their own yards but share a common yard for several housing units or some similar sort of development. Also, downtown must be redeveloped, if development of undeveloped areas were disallowed downtown would be redeveloped. Planning is key to a good future and protecting small towns and rural areas.

The city has to stop thinking it begins and ends downtown. It has to stop creating barriers to economic development -- e.g. Maple Leaf Foods, etc. In short, Hamilton needs to grow up and stop the infantile behaviour by some of its city councillors who appear more interested in re-election and building silos then co-operating and acting as a team.

Parking is a huge issue in the downtown core of the city. I believe that if parking was cheaper and even free there would be a lot more patrons visiting the local shops. The more patron visiting the downtown core, the more likely the chances of survival for the small and medium sized businesses.

Transportation. Products need to be able to get out into the broader marketplace quickly and efficiently. Encourage rail, water, air, and ground transportation ideas. Keep business incentive programs. look outside the province for foreign investments. Educate our young people for the types of jobs we want here. Attractive living means parks schools healthcare transportation safety, nice places to live... attract good jobs that pay well take care of the city, and educated residents that are productive to society will come. Hamilton has way too many uneducated people who fall victims to poverty drugs and crime to change that will take lots of time and effort..schooling is the place to start.

I think Hamilton should attract sport events, using the facilities we currently have. Funds to build new facilities should not be allocated. Volunteer people should be used to keep expenses down. Draw in the event and participants and spectators so a profit is made.

Why didn't your economic development areas include the upper Stoney Creek area - where the pig factory was going to go? Didn't we spend a lot to service that area already?

While putting together ideas for small business economic development and film etc is great MORE resources (ie. increasing my taxes) should be put into any economic development - especially not airport development and greenfield developments not already zoned and serviced.

Filming causes traffic headaches. It has cost me because lanes have been blocked, roads close etc. as a result I was late of work. The planning that is involved in big sporting events does not work because we do not have the hotel etc to accommodate such events

Eat local is an important issue especially in the Niagara Region. We live in an area rich in farmland. We need to preserve that land and support the local farmer. I feel we need to attract visitors to the local markets and encourage residents to buy local produce/items in the store of their choice.

Absolutely develop and support more regional industries such as farming and more small business recognition. Use the natural resources the area has, ie farming, tender fruit growth (cherries and peaches) as well as vineyards. Support these family run enterprises to attract tourism take a closer look at WILDLY successful applications of this theory in places like the Napa Valley, California. We have the SAME potential for incredible success in this area and yet we are ignoring it. We are the Napa valley of the North. These lands between Stoney Creek and Grimsby should NOT be developed with houses and the farmers with these tender fruits should be encouraged not driven out.

Unfortunately the worst billboard that we present of our city is the view we deliver crossing the Skyway. After that anybody that we've managed to entice will come meet with city hall and then travel down Burlington St and be privy to the stench of industry as they make their way down to city hall. Past the blackened dilapidated housing and then onto James St. What a view. I guess we could always send them down the 403 and whitewash what a good part of our downtown looks like.

De-amalgamate the city back to the original municipalities

Hamilton needs a multi-step plan. While sporting events are nice - I think we need a mix of short and longer term solutions. It is critical that money spent in economic development not be wasted - study after study is useless if there is no money left for implementation. As I noted above - we need to look to other communities (Burlington, Toronto, Chicago) for models of creative cities. At the same time though - we must find a distinct edge - highlight and invest strategically in what is uniquely Hamilton (of the future - not of the past). It is also critical to "clean up" many neighbourhoods facing neglect.

Surely the City has a Strategic Plan. If not I think you are at the root of the problem.

Economic Development and the Planning Department are part-and parcel to each other. They should not be split up- they should work together.

I don't think attracting sporting events (i.e. entertainment) should be a priority when we have so many citizens living below the poverty line. We should use those resources to ensure affordable housing and income supplements to those who are struggling so that they can become a productive member of our community. People, not sports, are our greatest asset.

Overall, economic development is best pursued at the provincial and federal levels. Municipalities should not compete with each other for economic development. That just serves the businesses and means we undercut each other.

A new facility will be needed to attract those sporting events to Hamilton - Copps Coliseum is falling apart and in need of much repair

The bike races were a great start and something of that magnitude every 5 years or so would be great for the city. But lets even start raising more awareness and hype about events such as the around the bay race, it's one of North America's oldest marathons and with the right corporate partners and publicity it may one day reach the level of the Boston or New York marathons,

Promoting small and medium business growth on the one hand while the other hand (the city as a landlord) evicts these small and medium business makes no sense at all. These strategies have to apply across all departments and at all levels or they are a waste of time and money.

I love the idea of promoting local farmers!

When going after major sporting events, the city should assess the probability of Hamilton being the winning bid before allocating major amounts of resources, such as what happened with the commonwealth games.

The city need to get out of areas that are not their concern and focus on doing well what people want - plow the streets, pick up the garbage!

Spend more time and resources on implementing goals rather than studies, focus groups, etc. We miss the boat too many times by the time the data is in, the opportunity has passed.

Money spent on strategies that can guarantee a positive return on investment are fine. Money spent on strategies that MIGHT return a positive return on investment are not. Spend money wisely. Our pockets are not bottomless!

Tax free incentives for the city core business. Safer City core management. Better CITY WIDE transit from Winona to Dundas.

The problem with the above mentioned events in #9 is that the local government is always left "holding the bag" (financially). This city DOES NOT have the money for this kind of thing. We should be concentrating on attracting private money for our economic development. Using local tax dollars to put on these events just drives up our deficit and raises local property taxes needlessly. We can't depend on the provincial and federal governments to bail us out.....that would be a major error to think that they would.

Filming and Sporting events should be sought only if profitable, if not it does nothing for our residence. Stop urban sprawl, redevelop downtown, further out we go the less these people will come into the city.

Jobs, package why Hamilton should be the choice to the nuance in business manufacturing mentioned above, cost/access/property and talent - market well - increase new business interest and execute sale of Hamilton. Recruit talent who has done this

To some extent this area of the survey clearly has an agenda and a set of answers that it is looking for. Not the most unbiased piece of work. I have no idea what kind of businesses Hamilton would want. I think with respect to sports events - most Cities loose money no these even though local business benefit.

Transportation of goods is essential, transportation of people also. Free parking for GO service so commuters don't drive to Burlington. Provide incentives to redevelop brownfield land in lower city, will improve look of city, bring money to lower city. Improve look of Hamilton from QEW, people see this and think that is what Hamilton is, not a very good first impression"

Buying local products and retaining small businesses are incredibly important. How can we get LOCAL farmers in our farmer markets? How about working with the Center Mall to get a GIANT sign on Ottawa street to let people know the best Hamilton farmers market (with real farmers backing up their trucks) is tucked behind the mall in a crumbling parking lot. How about a city-wide eat local directory - Hey, hasn't Environment Hamilton already created one?

Build on businesses that support each other. We need to consider the future of the relationship between a large business and smaller businesses servicing that... especially with industry. Automotive and steel industries appear to be in decline, however, those industries and the services and suppliers that support those industries could be refocused. That should be examined.

We need to entice people to move here and business to locate here. House prices are great vs Toronto. We need to get business like banks downtown. We need to get the DeGroot school of business to do Hamilton as a product. Like the Apprentice. Hamilton is dirty, we need people to take pride and pick up after themselves. People will pay for a house here and buy a cottage and drive 3 hrs to a lake or cottage. We have a huge lake and need to go back to the 1900s when people flocked to the beach. Reclaim industrial land for homes or parks on the lake or harbour. Sail canoe or rent a rowboat at princess point. The airport has to grow but we need more local farmers and markets to go local. Promote the Farmer's market and Centre Mall Market

Economic development is vital to this community. If we don't encourage businesses to come to Hamilton than we erode further its economic base. We need to attract the right businesses in order for people to stay and contribute to this community.

I don't know what greenfield is. Some of prelude to the questions above are biased- did you pilot test this survey?"

From the above, I agree that the City should encourage it's residents to support locally owned stores. However, I would very much rather see the City itself deal with local small businesses as opposed to dealing with businesses outside our community.

A constant in all asked questions is responded by how council will act. IE Maple Leaf Foods. Our problem is council and it's shtick. Very bush league at best

I'm not sure what the Brownfield and Greenfield development is? But at any rate our city should host more sporting events, for sure! Hamilton men and women are crazy about sports and its something that brings a lot positive energy into one place. Sports brings people together and creates lasting memories - it's truly a bonding experience. As for the film industry - bring it on!

Awareness campaigns are great, but they have to appeal to everyone. Often it seems city attempts to makes citizens aware of some issue come off as "preachy" or as disingenuous somehow. Keeping this in mind when developing such a campaign will go long way to making it more effective.

It should be a priority of the City to develop an architectural review board to review new building applications and promote a high level of architectural standards. Also, in fill projects should not allow surface parking in the urban area and new buildings should be constructed at the property boundary with strong connectivity to the street. Examples of poorly approved site plans are the new Shoppers on Concession St. and the proposed development at Barton and Ferguson. "Stimulating the local economy through ""buy local"" and small-business development campaigns/strategies is critical.

There are several community agencies that want to be involved in this (the one I work for is one) -- INCLUDE US IN THIS PROCESS!! Grassroots economic development is AT LEAST as effective (and a whole lot less expensive) than bureaucratic municipal practices. Mayor Fred et al need to MEET WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS!!!"

Economic development of the downtown core is a must, towns and cities are judged by the conditions of their downtown core. Ours is all but dead. Harts has infused some life again, carry that further give incentives to get more business to locate in the downtown core again.

I don't think sporting events are as important as tapping into the biodeisel or renewable energy sources. I think using McMaster's innovation park to research and develop new energy sources and manufacture them here is a huge opportunity in the now burgeoning environmental awareness of Canadians. What was a huge surprise to me when I moved here was how environmentally aware so many Hamiltonians are and these human resources could be tapped into by the new Hamilton Economic Development Corporation. Hamilton could shed it's image as a 'pollutant spewing' city and take on a leading role in Canada to foster new energy technology as well as other environmentally friendly technologies that range from car fuels, to home heating to public transit.

The city would attract more businesses if it could offer lower tax rates for business. The city should make a 'shop down town' awareness campaign to encourage both shopping and further development of retail, restaurants and arts centres. Similar to Burlington's campaign that seems to be working well. The city needs to make art and spots events that come to our city more public in other cities in the area. For example when the city hosted the bicycle race people in Oakville and Toronto didn't seem to know it was happening.

The issuance of a building permit for a small commercial renovation has been a disaster. The building department have no clue about the needs of small business people and appear to try and block any development. Never again will I follow the rules if they are going to be this much of a headache. A \$30,000 project looks like it may cost \$50,000 with all the ridiculous demands.

Let's get our feet out of the water on the Bay and develop our prime lands.

Develop the economy by streamlining how the city functions, rather than pouring funds into separate "economic development" projects. Do the long range planning and implementation well, and the economy will blossom. A healthy economy depends on a healthy context - make the city work well, and business will thrive. Focus on local, especially agriculture.

Hamilton must compete with the GTA. Strategically, it is located midway between Toronto and Buffalo, yet Hamilton is missing out on a great deal of business which goes either to Toronto or the U.S. on weekends. Attempts to draw visitors to such attractions as the "Haida" seem to be in vain. Hamilton has a stigma attached to it as a dirty grimy city which is crime - ridden and falling apart. This seems to be the case when viewed from the Burlington Skyway. Hamilton has hidden treasures such as the beach which remain close to huge populations, but are unattractive due to decay and rampant pollution. Hamilton needs a massive make-over and new image. It's affordable housing would be one area of interest to attract new people to move here.

GO ECDEV!!! We hear so many people complaining about EcDev but they have next to nothing to work with. The cultural sector has all but been ignored by the City.

Economic development is by far the most important area for improvement in Hamilton. Too many times, the city has detracted potential development, ie. Maple Leaf Foods, etc. The sooner we can attract big companies to invest in our city and start paying their taxes, our Residential taxes can finally start going down, as we are paying the highest property taxes in Ontario.

I WANT ATTRACTING NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE TOP OF THE LIST. When the development is here, the rest will follow much easier."

We have new McMaster sports facility. That should be utilized to it's fullest. We have Ivor Wynne Stadium, use it to the fullest. How can we promote businesses to come in if our downtown area looks like it's coming apart at the seams along with the Ottawa Street Shopping District. Revitalization is key in this old city.

UNFORTUNATELY OUR CITY IS USED WHEN THEY NEED RUN DOWN, DERELECT, SMOG FILLED SCENES. PERHAPS CLEANING UP THE CITY WOULD ATTRACT FILMS FOR 'BEAUTIFUL LOCATION' SCENES

Local businesses are only beneficial if they're attractive, priced well, and shopper friendly. For example, Rainbow Bridal is a wonderful local business, while the ugly 'hooker' shoe shops, tacky t-shirt and corner style stores and businesses that look like garage sales only encourage people to shop places like Wal-Mart.

The city needs to be flexible and grab opportunities as they occur. The city keeps running back to the "plan: and "lets study this" too much. If they have to have a plan, it should have flexibility and opportunism built into the plan.

There are too many double questions needing two different answers in this survey. This survey is poorly designed and written. Just like the cities web site. Must be the worst web site out there!

Much as Pittsburgh was known as Steel town in the 70s and 80s, but is now a burgeoning IT, arts and academic town, so could Hamilton.

Also - included in a comprehensive ecdev plan should be the inclusion of a cultural plan and policy that is approved and ADHEARED to by council. A vibrant cultural scene is a must for any investor in our community. Council has notoriously ignored A&C in the past, including the City of Hamilton's Cultural plan pre-amalgamation. When recommendations are made by a citizen's group appointed by council they should at least respectfully listen and perhaps follow the AAC direction.

As important as economic development is sustainable development and the City already has viable guidelines in its 2020 report and triple e measures to recognize this -- they simply must be adhered to. We should not squander any more green-fields (including around the airport) until concerted actions are taken to polish the jewels (and rubble) that are downtown and in our older industrial areas. Downtown Hamilton desperately needs to become a destination and better place to live and decisions under the guise of economic development and planning will have a lot to do with this. More effort needs to go into supporting events, attractions, businesses and infrastructure to draw people (and \$\$\$) to the core and lower City.

We need to make McMaster our centrepiece by attracting large Biotech companies to set up partnerships with McMaster and HHS.

We need to develop a greater focus on white collar industries if we hope to stop being viewed as an undesirable town. The fact that our biggest employer is HHS and no one knows this screams how little marketing we have done.

Please develop a strategy for land that is not being used in the lower section of the city (brownfields and commercial properties) – work with the owners to develop a strategy to get the land back into use. The city could use a little intensification in the lower part. Help to create strong neighbourhoods though assisting neighbourhood associations to help create neighbourhood pride – I think this should be a part of the “buy locally” as the neighbourhood associations will encourage people to buy from their local stores. - Please don't allow the city to expand into the farmlands – lets use up the underworked brownfield land first.

The City needs to clean up both its pollution & excessive crime problems first, to be able to attract any economic opportunities. Any business moving to Hamilton would need to be reassured that their current employees would not hesitate to move with them and that Hamilton has an existing capable work force. At this stage, I don't believe either is true.

I think Hamilton needs to prioritize, it seems like a nice idea to have many small programs that promote specific causes or ideas within the city and I think that at some time in the future it will be advantageous for the City to have many small programs promoting many small ideas. However, I think that right now Hamilton just needs to concentrate on becoming a livable city again. It would be nice to have more national and regional events but the city is still struggling image wise and economically also, it costs big money to get these events, money that could be spent on promoting development of old bombed out buildings and dirty brownfields. We have to make the City livable and nice again before we go showing it off to the world.

Attracting business is not about local campaigns or sporting events - it's about eliminating poverty, embracing diversity and equality. Focus on the children/youth - through educational opportunities, early childhood development, skills development and other supports to allow kids to grow to their full potential. That's our future.

The development of downtown is key. That is the FIRST area people see when they enter the city, and as it stands it's not that impressive. There are hundreds of unused and deteriorating buildings (Lister Block) that should be preserved and occupied with businesses that will attract tourists and residents alike; Jackson Square should also be occupied, because it's a shadow of what it was when I first came here some 15 years ago.

Regarding creating employment opportunities - shortly we will see our unemployment rates raise due to projected layoffs. Most employees affected aren't well educated or trained and require 'unskilled' employment opportunities. If they don't exist these people will exhaust their EIB and start drawing from Ontario Works which is now cost shared with our municipal government. If job creation for these people is not possible, more funds need to be made available to assist these people with training. We need to start with life skills and work our way up the ladder. OW recipients are not competitive and they often need to learn the basics: personal hygiene, laundry, paying bills. It's hard to train or job search when your homelife is not in order.

As well as jobs Hamilton has to have an attractive infrastructure to attract employees. I think there should be more restaurants and activities built around Pier 4 such as boat rentals, hot dog stands, more patio area such as Williams Coffee Pub. We have such a large population, but our restaurants and nightlife is limited. Also, more should be done to conserve old buildings, keep old trees, and get rid of ugly signs. Burlington could be copied, in terms of free downtown parking on weekends, cheap theaters, and I miss Earth Song. That was one of the best events Hamilton ever run, but it was squashed by small minded local residents who couldn't take people parking in front of their houses for one weekend - have to confront and resolve.

Urban sprawl should be kept to a minimum. Consider revitalizing existing areas of the city like downtown and the waterfront before expanding to undeveloped areas. Models of successful cities like Vancouver should be incorporated into our planning. There is no point in expanding to areas of the city that aren't easily accessible by transit or other modes of transport.

"Sport events have been big Money White Elephants since Ancient GREECE.

Look at the BIG "O" or SKYDOME (AKA Rogers Centre) even COPPS Coliseum has been mostly EMPTY. IF SPORTS want to be here (Around the Bay ROAD RACE) they will find a WAY a SPONSOR and have a business plan. TAX Money is JUST A BIG Party for the owners!

Have more job training available in order to attract and retain jobs the City should concentrate on revitalizing the downtown and creating a signature for the city (giving it a recognizable look) that would also encourage people to both live and work here. Why not introduce a "Gateway to Niagara" theme. Establish a Niagara wine area such as Rebecca Street or near the Market which could house the very many independent Niagara wineries in the form of small bars and restaurants with a retail wine outlet. Liven up Main street with Planters containing either small height trees or other plantings. It's too gray on Main St. Showcase the great Hamilton artists (they don't have to hide out in Dundas, you know). Renovate the Market and introduce more local produce and organically.

Employers need to know that they will be able to attract quality employees who are willing to live and work in this city. This city needs a major beautification overhaul. The amount of empty, boarded up, street front commercial space downtown is depressing. Help entrepreneurs get in there with small business start-up loans, tax incentives. Whatever, however; those spaces just need to be filled.



I believe that an attractive transit system is so important. Something that's not just practical, but fun and exciting to ride. Also very appealing to employees, and employers.

I do not like the way the questions are structured in this section so they have been difficult to answer.

I believe that there is no value in trying to promote or develop small business-because they will come anyway. In the same fashion retailers will come to Hamilton if and when they see there is a market for their products.

What can Hamilton do that is unique-make a decision to concentrate on green industries(either in processes or products, recycling buildings and land. In my view his image will go a long way towards attracting those industries that would be good for Hamilton either in terms of work created or some other benefit such as technological development or just companies that are not more trouble than they are worth"

Economic Development initiatives targeted at business attraction for the city should be a higher priority as well as programs to encourage businesses to stay in Hamilton.

Give business big tax brakes for first year or two because we all know 'greed is good' and they will come and yes I'll be willing to pay for it through my taxes

Focus growth and development downtown. Increase GO and VIA rail service to Toronto

Focus should encompass economic growth and re-development of the core of the city and attract new business that requires post-secondary education.

Arts and culture is the 4th highest employer and this should also be considered a focus." Focus on two main areas, the airport lands and downtown, The airport lands because it builds on access to transportation, downtown because only cities with vibrant cores will grow and succeed. Development in other areas, brownfields etc. will come naturally as success is achieved with the two priority areas.

We need to make Hamilton a place people want to live and work in. the problems of the core are creeping eastward and upward. The city is dying. People that I know that lived here 10 yrs ago say Hamilton is a shadow of itself. Promote education - the trades and IT training

Film crews should remain overnight in the city not in Toronto so money is spent locally and all costs of road closures etc should be recovered.

Brownfield redevelopment should have a much higher priority than greenfield development.

Encouraging local food procurement would greatly help our local farmers and businesses - I think this is very important.

Regarding buying locally, I believe the Hamilton Farmer's Market downtown would be the best location to use as a centrepiece. With the new proposed developments to the market / library / York blvd area, this is the right time to start promoting Local Produce from the Farmer's Market. One suggestion would be to maybe have the Market open on more days than the current schedule. As for the film industry, it is imperative that we promote / extend funding to the dept. as the spin-off benefits are amazing!"

Promoting one-off film shoots and sporting events should be very much secondary to assisting small-to-medium Hamilton-based businesses. It is not clear that more money/resources are required for effective economic development, if priorities are shifted from attracting mega project-scale developments by national or multinational corporations and toward Hamilton businesses. Hamiltonians very much need a rally call to buy local and otherwise support local economic development, primarily by way of education. Plans for an "aerotropolis" and other greenfield development should be actively discouraged by the City as being clearly contrary to the principles of Vision 2020 and sustainable development more generally.

Buy Local Campaign!!!! That's really amazing. Do it for sure!

I find this format good but there are not enough choices. Picking 5 only from a category of many makes it too difficult in some areas to make the right decision. We need more people sitting in the seats during committee meetings, so we need advanced promotion of city meetings. Global climate change is here now, and every person needs to know what they are doing to add to it.

Every citizen must change their burning of fossil fuels - not look to their neighbour to do something. Apartment dwellers need to be able to sort their waste in more detail and have the ability to compost. We need more places for sitting so more people walking can rest and take in the local scenery. Racing through the city on Main St and King St adds too much pollution"

Encourage community economic development – co-ops, barter clubs, community run small businesses, community gardens etc. Better support for small businesses. Initiatives like micro-credit for women.

Locke street was a terrible example - business is being killed by objections to many business initiatives.

Think local and sustainable.

Keep or develop jobs in every field that is really needed for human life and for a good community; also use relative advantages; drop the rest. Keep agriculture!!

I'm thrilled that you're asking these questions. I believe that Hamilton is poised for major economic success if we can focus on our strengths, which are NOT greenfield or airport lands development. We should focus on small businesses (of which Hamilton has many), particularly in the fields of information technology, arts and design. We should focus on medium and large businesses that are in cutting-edge fields like biosciences and advanced manufacturing. There is no meaningful future for Hamiltonians in warehouses and call centres. Give us the tools to excel and we will - we already are.

Film - Film - Film. Okay, I'm biased as it's my profession but I can't believe the lack of support for this multibillion dollar industry. 99 per cent of crews on Hamilton shoots are imported from the GTA because there is no crew base here. We need to immediately define a 'Film District' and turn unused warehouse space into active studio and support service businesses. These businesses are already looking for space and resources. What has to happen to get some immediate resources to help grow an industry that is already banging down the door???

The City needs to take a balanced approach to economic development. Its 2005 Economic Development Strategy detailed a number of priority clusters for development all under the theme of an education city. The focus of the City should be on a balance of these clusters- namely increasing the focus on the downtown, film and culture clusters, while decreasing the focus on aerotropolis and "Shovel ready green fields". Hamilton is older city with many great strengths that are currently not being used - we should not be comparing ourselves to Markham and Brampton, but rather we should be focusing on our unique strengths, our downtown, our vibrant green space and waterfront to attract creative and knowledge industries to our city.

A significant portion of our population commutes on a daily basis taking their spending dollars with them. Part of a "buy local" campaign needs to recognize that commuters shop after 6 pm.

There is far too much emphasis on sport tourism. A strategy to attract and retain jobs involves providing a great location for employees to live...hence the emphasis should be on promoting the city's cultural and natural attractions - heritage sites, conservation areas, and the like.

Lower taxes.

More support for the arts!!!!

Local buying increases the stability of the local economy and individuals are inspired by the large sporting events creates and community grows and

Positive self-confidence grows through the working together of volunteers.

The City should concentrate on attracting high paying quality jobs, especially in the downtown (where high tech and creative industries like to locate). Brownfield redevelopment should be a priority for large-scale industrial companies.

Greenfield development (especially around the airport) should be a last resort. Business Parks (like Glanbrook, Ancaster and the Aeropark) have not attracted much business in the past and are unlikely to do so in the future. They also are expensive to service. Focusing on warehousing and distribution would be the worst choice as it has a very low job density, is relatively poorly paid and requires large tracts of greenfield serviced land.

Economic renewal or development is the number one issue for Hamilton. We live in a city that requires a tremendous amount of social services and we have a lower socioeconomic basis. Investment in improving the economy of Hamilton will pay downstream benefits for the future of the city. (a trickle down effect) We must act now to overcome the many years of delay in action. We can no longer rely on traditional manufacturing as the main source of jobs. People simply do not believe Hamilton is a viable region to develop - we must do EVERYTHING to reverse this. You must use your power to keep small businesses attractive and operational in Hamilton. I live downtown and walking to and from work keeps my spending dollars downtown. Me and my friends love living near James Street South! BUT There is no nice and safe coffee shop or decent diner to sit and socialize with educated middle class people. There is one grocer who marks the prices high because he is the only one! There is no hardware to get the necessary things you need when you move to an apartment. Is anyone interested in opening a normal store. One that is not junky looking! Our streets are empty of decent shops of any kind. We are embarrassed about this. We need to entice major players in manufacturing CLOTHING instead of buying from overseas!

I have so much faith in this city, that it is a great city, and that it can be an amazing city. Supporting and promoting smaller and local businesses is crucial to growing this city in a healthy manner.

Just a thought, you might want a glossary for some terms such as brownfield, greenfield, and others. I know what most of them are, but I don't know that a lot of people would be instantly familiar with the terms.

Attract unique retailers to the downtown core, such as Mountain Equipment Coop, Lulu Lemon, H&M. These are chains, but we need to attract shoppers to the downtown core, otherwise the small guys do not survive. Get rid of the busy one way streets, people cannot even slow down and look much less pull over and park; put in pedestrian crosswalks so people can cross from one side of the street to the other to get to the shops. Bike lanes. Encourage pedestrians as they stop and spend money, whereas car drivers are heading to the strip mall big box stores. Move the halfway houses and low income housing developments, spread them equally around the city so that there is not such a collection of scary people in the downtown core. Impossible I guess

I'm not very knowledgeable in this field, but believe local business, small business in line with climate change is important.

When I rate transportation as a high priority I mean train travel - NOT airports and highways.

The downtown core needs the most attention. It is in a dire state. It's like a decay that is spreading from the middle of the city and extends further and further out. One idea that I've always thought would help would be to demolish Jackson Square, or at least redesignate it's purpose from a "mall" to strictly an office building. If you get rid of the mall, maybe smaller restaurants and businesses would have to pop up due to demand from the people who work downtown during lunches. As well, more focus needs to be put on art and culture in Hamilton. The renovations to the Gallery are a step in the right direction, but once you attract young artists to the city, it will be able to thrive again.

We must ensure that the planning that is put in place - that is typically sustainable, environmentally responsible - is what is actually done. Too much recent activity has been the continuation of old thinking (eg. new expressway, greenfield development, residential in what was planned as employment land) at cross purposes with the plans. The face of our community must reflect the citizens, not the developers' most profitable proposals.

Would prefer spending money on promoting the film industry in Hamilton over sporting events. With the exception of the curling and cycling championships, we have spent a lot of money going after sporting events without success. Either identify fewer sporting events to go after (more provincial and national and less international) and develop better proposals -- matching better to the event.

Any help to bring the 'small' businesses back to downtown would be good. we definitely don't need any more bars down here. Sporting events like the bike race brought lots of revenue to the city and also the films bring in lots of revenue.

To date, not enough thought has been given to the economic contribution of social services and social spending. For instance, an increase in provincial social assistance rates would pump a lot of aggregate demand into the downtown retail base.

Our Economic Development seems to be too politically driven with no understanding of what it takes to get there. Right now we have lots of unserved Industrial land that sits unserved because we can't afford to do it ourselves, but here we are trying to put our priorities at the airport which is going to cost a heck of a lot more than the lands we have designated. In terms of affordability, the airport is 30 years away, but Council seems to think that it can happen right away. You've got a lot of money to spend in already designated areas that will keep you busy trying to figure out how to pay for them and recover costs - the airport is a long term plan. That should be made clear to everyone.

The city has strengths in traditional manufacturing, and also in knowledge/health. These are areas that need to be built up. Brownfields and downtown also are worth the effort in terms of cost/benefit pay-off. Given their location, the jobs created are more likely to go to residents paying property taxes. The airport lands and greenfields are more likely to create jobs supporting workers living in neighbouring municipalities along the highways, and thus not support the property tax base.

Promote small business and creative sector in downtown and other established mixed use areas as well as green field development. Stop ignoring the potential of downtown because it does not fit easily into a corporate category. Promote quality of life available in Hamilton compared to other cities ie. low cost of living/real estate and access to green and culture. Primary focus should be on retaining existing employment and attracting new business to Hamilton. Cleaning up the downtown by ensuring safe, viable and vibrant downtown. This can only occur through residential intensification, and putting a strong emphasis on the provincial Places to Grow Plan. A main goal should also focus on removing social services outside of the downtown core. More efficient transit is needed, this can only be achieved through having HSR in attendance at Committee meetings. Council needs to be more optimistic, and not fall to the whim of their ward constituents, Maple Leaf Foods was a major loss to this community, and this is just one.

Economic development needs to be de-politicized. After the rift over the Red Hill Expressway, many development strategies (like the mandatory inclusion of Aerotropolis in all six GRIDS growth options) have been shoehorned based not on their real promise but on validating the pro-sprawl, pro-expressway sentiments of elected officials. We need to invest our scarce resources based on what will generate the most value to the city: the most jobs, the most high-quality jobs, the most efficient use of existing infrastructure, the most tax revenue, the most insulated from energy supply volatility, and so on.

A "Buy Local" campaign could do wonders for the City of Hamilton. Promoting the Farmer's Market and the independent stores in the core would help develop a sense of community that is severely lacking in most parts of Hamilton. Encouraging residents to keep their dollars close to home and as far away from big box stores as possible would make people think in a more global perspective. We've waited long enough for independent stores to be considered a valuable community asset.

I am opposed to developing our greenfield lands at the expense of brownfields and downtown. Please develop brownfields first.

Downtown redevelopment has not had this kind of press in years. If we don't act now we may lose momentum. It's time to attract the right business -- redevelop the core of the community and the rest will follow. Getting people downtown (living and shopping) is key.

I wasn't aware that Hamilton could afford to pick and choose the kind of businesses we try to attract. We are so far behind our neighbours that we must try to attract all types. Also, it is my understanding that we need ALL types of employment lands to attract new business to Hamilton. We simply can't afford to limit ourselves or companies will go elsewhere ... take Maple Leaf Foods for example. That was a terrible loss and can only be blamed on the council of the day and their listening to a few vocal residents' self interests at the expense of us all. Further, many of these questions are inappropriately leading.

The best way to develop Hamilton is to improve the Go Train service to Toronto.

Market the downtown core to students. As a long-time Hamiltonian and McMaster student, I'm shocked at how little advertising the city directs at the University population. Many students pay a fortune for slum-like apartments carved out of the once beautiful Westdale area, while beautiful and centrally-located apartments and lofts remain vacant in Durand, Corktown, and the core itself. Both the students and the downtown could prosper from a shift of the student population towards the Core. Furthermore, a youthful population is what makes a city hip and attractive, and provides the skilled and creative population which will create jobs. Virtually all students leave Hamilton once they have their degree-- we should find incentive for them to stay.

In reference to question #9 above; I think that the best event that Hamilton has hosted was the bicycle race a few years ago. I thought the amount of international tourists we received was great, and would like to see more similar events.

In regards to investing more money in bringing in the film industry; I think that this is an excellent idea since the city has so much to offer, architecturally and ecologically.

Warehousing & manufacturing businesses can be hosted anywhere these days. Hamilton has little that the farmland outside of Toronto doesn't offer for cheaper. Instead, we should focus on our strengths. Hamilton is a real, honest-to-goodness city. Companies who want to locate close to Toronto but not pay Toronto rents, and yet have access to the social, & cultural offerings of a viable downtown are the best candidates.

Again, downtown redevelopment should be made a higher priority, especially in terms of attracting small/medium size businesses to the core. In addition to focusing on attracting businesses in the specific sectors mentioned above, Hamilton EcDev should also focus on ways to attract/create/support existing SMEs in the city, which could be located throughout different areas of the city.

Hamilton is more beautiful than any native Hamiltonian realizes, as a new Hamiltonian I can't say enough about the city's potential- but potential and actualization are very different. Get the plans ready, get the ideas started, get a better image the city, and be rewarded with pride- your own pride of leadership and the community's pride of lifestyle.

Ensuring that the jobs that are created match the communities that can support them is important. Big box centers not tied to transit are not a feasible, sustainable way to build a city.

I generally do think more money should be spent on the things you're asking about, but it's hardly an open-ended question. If you want an unbiased survey of people's views, and you're really interested in what the public thinks and wants you can't phrase the questions in such a way that the answers are emotionally biased. Just for the record.

My concern is that any growth and planning within the city needs to meet the needs of the current citizens, not just the indirect benefits of economic growth. Plans need to take into account environmental, social impact.

Provide cheaper parking to entice people to the downtown core. Clean up the downtown, especially the Lister Block. That would have been a perfect place for City Offices.

I think the biggest mistake we've made in our effort to attract new jobs is in trying to attract any and all kinds of jobs to the community. I think we have no shortage of jobs overall- it's more about attracting the kinds of employers most people are looking for. I know plenty of people my age who are working jobs they're more than qualified to do- there's a certain inability to graduate to jobs that are more suited to the abilities of employees. It's probably why many McMaster students decide to relocate after graduation.

I think an equal if not greater attention should be paid to job creation within the community through the support of small to medium businesses, and the emphasis should be placed on local ownership.

Municipal government with a reputation for integrity and above board dealings would inspire confidence in prospective businesses. Confidence that they will have a fair chance at profitability in this city... even if they have no connections in city hall! The city must also continue to tackle poverty and the deterioration of the downtown core in an effort to convince businesses that Hamilton is a desirable place to live and work. Keep up the good work with improvements to the waterfront!

I think before we look outside, we should be fixing the inside. Our infrastructure (roads, water mains etc) require far more work and money should be spent to create a solid base before we look at expansion.

I would love to see all of the Waterfront land, from Princess Point to James street developed...get rid of all those rich people's boats. Open it all up to the people...attract small restaurants, boutiques, jugglers, fire eaters, concerts, ice cream parlors. Put a casino down near the area...it will attract a lot of business in the downtown core. Also, develop a couple of large skating rinks in the downtown core. Have a larger show of police in the downtown area. If we don't change the situation downtown, no amount of \$\$ will change.

I think the downtown renewal based on the arts and small business is the key. There are a lot of people here with ideas and ambition. Why not make some of the vacant decomposing buildings in the core available for people who want to invest and develop them. End the tax reduction on chronically vacant land and step up the reclamation of vacant properties with taxes in arrears then turn them over to people with the means to renovate or start a small business in them and lease lend the properties to give us a head start.

Do anything possible to move big business to downtown Hamilton, create subsidies, lower commercial taxes,, assist go and via with bringing frequent rail to downtown Hamilton. Offer interest free loans for relocating offices.

Fix the job application process online. To understand how bad it is.....try actually applying for something. If you cant get the people who already want the jobs to complete that task, there is no sense trying to attract people.

We NEED another mainstream newspaper and another mainstream TV station in this city! One is NOT NEAR enough :) They'll help to spread our message that we're (STILL) here!

Creating (tax, licensing, code) structures that invite people to innovate and create livelihoods and provide services will strengthen Hamilton and give back to the community. Don't stifle initiative through over-legislation, but foster talent and invest in good ideas.

I'd be in favour with the economic department merging (thus growing) with the environmental planning group. They should be linked, after all. Any economic growth needs to be aligned with preserving and fostering our environment - or it's too short-sighted.

I like the buy-at-home campaign concept. We should be proud of what our area produces. And we certainly don't need to give money to the big-box store owners.

I'd love to get access to locally grown food & local wine without having to head into the downtown market. That location works for some, but having an online ordering system and a delivery to drop stations around the town would be one way to expand the Market's business."

Buy local is a great idea

Attracting new business, sporting events and the film industry shows that Hamilton is a pretty nice place to live and that hopefully the image of the city will change. I think there is a perception that Hamilton is a pollution pit and though there is evidence to support this, there are also a lot of good efforts being done to dispel and change this image.

Absolutely put city's weight behind 'localizing' the economy, get ready for energy driven disruptions in big box retailing. Upgrade building infrastructure to be energy/climate positive.

Hamilton needs to clean up the downtown by attracting more permanent residents (not just students) to the core. It is important to do this before bringing guests to Hamilton by hosting big sporting events - right now the downtown is an eyesore. Start by attracting more residents to the downtown which will encourage people to shop locally and thus revitalize places like Jackson Square and the Farmer's Market. Also, making it easier for people to bike downtown from areas like Westdale and Dundas will revitalize the downtown economy. The Farmer's Market should be open on Sundays to encourage residents to buy locally.

The largest employment sectors in Hamilton are education and health care. Hamilton needs to promote this image. There are many myths about Hamilton, specifically in the GTA, but these myths need to be dispelled. However, more than dispelling these myths, Hamilton need to PROVE that the City has changed. Based on the downtown core, no one will believe that there has been a change.

What City's combine planning and economic development?

While Green fields are generally considered in a negative way. There is a demonstrated need for greenfield employment.

Rather than wasting money on things that do not make any sense, such as re-doing the sidewalks downtown every other year, consider getting some advice from urban planners, or looking into the history of the downtown to see what worked in the past.



We should also look to the federal level of government for funding to help establish low income housing and open doors to jobs for immigrants and those in poverty.

The City needs to stop bending over backwards to attract large scale businesses (which add little to the local community and are very portable), and focus on building opportunities for small business development WITHIN Hamilton!

Let's clean up and run efficiently what we have and then pursue new. Get the house in order first.

Brownfield, greenfield, and waterfront development must be a top priority for Hamilton. Hamilton can be a leader in this area and this leadership will help restore Hamilton's image more than an expensive advertising campaign. Ensure McMaster's Innovation Park moves ahead on schedule.

One of the things that helps get the workers that make business work is reliable transit. As we move forward we need to place more and more importance on transit.

The city needs to go for the "skill-based" economy. Health science, financial services, IT, Green technology, organic food development, etc. No more green fields can be destroyed. Brownfields need to be recovered. Downtown is the highest priority. We need to focus on attracting the middle class, including new Canadians, not the welfare and disadvantaged. Hamilton is over invested in social services compared to neighbors like Burlington. Arts are a big draw to intelligent newcomers. Traditional industry like Stelco etc deserves no further financial support.

Buy local campaign is important...considering our local agriculture. Attracting sports events: not a big priority.

Economic Development is vital. The Red Hill Expressway, the Linc, all important. Extending the Burlington Street Expressway through the city to hook up with the 403 would allow for Businesses to naturally seek out Brownfields by themselves. Investors will buy this land themselves for redevelopment if the infrastructure is in place. Certain key areas such as the McMaster Innovation park must be developed with Advanced Manufacturing and Biosciences and Food manufacturing in mind to help develop those industries. It is not just a place that companies want, they want a city that has culture as well, a place for families - that is why the city must invest and develop the waterfront. Privatize the municipal golf courses, reinvest the funds into Chedoke Ski Area.

I am not sure our economic development and planning department is on a track that merits more resources. The commissioning and response to the one-sided Hemson report is a case in point. It is shocking that the EDPD is not pursuing more sustainable forms of development at this late date. I don't know that throwing more money at dinosaurs will help. I don't know enough about the internal workings of the dept. to know if separating the planning from the economic development functions would help, but I suppose it couldn't hurt.

This city's tax payers are consistently footing the bill for developing and bringing in events to this city and there is no benefit to taxpayers. How much more do we have to deal with. Maybe you should put a blurb with the above noted issues so all citizens are aware of the true issue. Once again this is a slanted questionnaire.

Why are you excluding economic development in the area of environment and energy and development of alternate sources of energy?

Awareness campaigns, although maybe effective for the short term, do not create long term stable solutions. Put the money into training and development to strengthen locally owned businesses.

Although a survey is a good idea, it would be far more prudent to develop a strong planning sector that can answer these and other questions properly.

I feel all these things are important, but not at the cost of my taxes going up. If the City can afford to implement these things fine, if not, then the City should fund raise to raise the money, and not hit the Citizens of Hamilton with another tax increase when taxes are high. I don't buy things I can't afford, and neither should the City.

STOP PLAYING BY THE PROVINCE'S RULES OF 'NO BONUSING' TO ATTRACT BUSINESSES. I WOULD RATHER SEE THE CITY USE MY TAXES TO ASSIST IN BROWNFIELD CLEANUP, TAX HOLIDAYS FOR RELOCATED BUSINESSES ETC. SO WHAT IF HAMILTON DOESN'T PLAY BY THE RULES? WHO WILL SLAP OUR WRISTS? WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES? IS THERE A FINE TO PAY! FURTHER, MORE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS WILL ATTRACT BUSINESS. IF YOU THINK BURLINGTON OR MISSISSAUGA SPENDS MORE MONEY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, YOU ARE WRONG. BEING ON THE QEW/401 AND THEIR PROXIMITY TO TORONTO IS ALL THEY NEED. HAMILTON NEEDS TO BECOME THE GEO-GRAPHIC LINCHPIN OF WEST CENTRAL ONTARIO AND COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE TORONTO COLOSSUS, THAT WE SHOULD BE!

Cops Coliseum should be renovated into a world class facility. Again, a great start (location, facility) but it was finished half-ass and remains second class. Let's step it up.

Environmental criticism is the city's greatest detraction. Get the (remaining) manufacturing companies to invest in cleaning up their acts. If you don't, all this other stuff is a waste of time and money."

WHERE HAVE YOU BEGONE CLEANING UP? TOO MANY THINGS TO DO ALL AT ONCE. ROADS, MAJOR CORPORATIONS BELONGING TO THE CITY THAT CAN HELP MARKET THE CITY ON YOUR BEHALF, (E.G. THE SPECTATOR COULD START LISTING THE HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR RENT BY NEIGHBOURHOOD-CROSS STREETS-TO HELP PEOPLE FIND SUITABLE HOUSING-THIS COULD HELP GET RID OF SLUM LANDLORDS) BURLINGTON STREET IS FILTHY--WHO OCCUPY'S MOST OF THE STREET? GET THEM TO CLEAN IT. CLEAN THE CRAP FROM DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS. TEAR DOWN THE OLD BUILDINGS-THEY STINK FROM SLUM LANDLORDS AND TENANTS. THIS CITY ONCE ADVERTISED "BRING YOUR BUSINESS HERE" ON A POSTER AT A MALL IN ETOBICOKE WHERE DRUG DEALERS HANG OUT. (THE ALBION MALL, 1989)COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! CLEAN UP YOUR ACT, THEY WILL COME.

City Hall needs to quit sticking it's nose into thing it doesn't know about.

We lost money on a Grey Cup. The bike race brought us nothing but inconvenience and what money did come in went right back out of town.

Start looking after the basics, water/sewer, roads, police, fire, property standards, garbage. Clean the streets. Put cops on the beat. Control graffiti

Until the city's livable, everything else is a waste.

In two of the questions you compared Amount of Money spent in Economic Development in other Cities the city you compared are continuing to attract more and more Jobs while Hamilton lags behind I think this should tell the City something. Same with the Structure used.

As well as promoting international sporting events, the city needs to recognize the number of local tournaments and school events that involve many participants from across the province and the upper US states, such as girls hockey, both Hamilton and Stoney creek girls hockey tournaments bring in well over 125 teams per tournament when calculated is about 2000girls plus parents for each event, embrace the families and they will shop, spend and enjoy our city

We need hotels to promote tourism. Brantford did a great job of promoting itself as a tournament capital. We could look at doing the same. We should create retail centres that can be walked around, not driven to and through. We need to encourage shopping habits that support local manufacturers.

I believe Hamilton is a beautiful city. Many people, including Hamiltonians are not aware of the amount of flora/fauna we have. City of Hamilton should focus on developing strategic planning into a culture of global-tourism, where people can be taken into tours of the city to see and enjoy our waterfalls, parks, theatres and many more places we are so proud to have. It is a duty of every Hamiltonian to recognize that we have a great city and therefore promote it as such.

Move immediately to secure the money and expertise promised by the federal government for the McMaster Innovation Park.

We have to get the word out that we have everything that other cities have and we are not just the city next to Toronto.

Movie companies can be encouraged to warehouse equipment and set stages area in city. obtain funding to build sporting stages and then encourage spin-off(tailgate areas) entertainment prior. look forward rather than plan for today. Clean the city up to make it attractive, this will be a major cost which we will have to swallow- need many more police to keep the appearance of safe streets. Stop wasting money ,concentrate social services on those who can use them to get ahead, or elderly that have paid their dues.

It's worthwhile exploring the advantages of the economic development structures of other cities and comparing what the advantages are to Hamilton's current structure, although there is a natural link between economic development and planning, so I don't think they should be done independently.

I am not sure what is offered but trying to give breaks ie taxes , rents etc especially in the first year would help.

Anything to boost the City I am all for. The last thing we had that was great was the cycle race we had. The City was a buzz. What great exposure! We need more things like this. Downtown needs better shops to draw tourists here. Like Oakville has, St. Jacobs, Niagara-on-the-Lake. We have the hotels now we need the specialty shops.

I seem to have answered yes to everything, but these costs at the expense of what else might change my answer. I work in economic development and understand the importance, but there needs to be a balance. I hope that elected officials will accept the answers of this questionnaire while recognizing that we leave it to them to see the big picture. Economic development is long term, but we can't let it cloud the short term needs or the buy in will be lost before we see the results of the long term investment.

My strong thoughts are with buy local, if we cannot promote local business and use local business when we need something including the City of Hamilton - I dislike seeing out of town companies doing large projects in the city when there are local companies that could do the work. Use our tax dollars wisely and support the taxpayer first.

Encourage business tax breaks for new business for a set number of years. Provide brownfield development land free of tax arrears.

Tivoli theatre - Lister Block ---- FLATTEN them – let's get going and move ahead. Quit trying to keep the past. Our downtown core is a disgrace to the City - we have to do more and more. Maintain financial advantages to businesses interested in the downtown/waterfront area. Lets get some help to flatten more and more buildings in the 'brownfield areas.'

The movie industry in Hamilton puts a lot more money into the area. We should do what we can to assist them in selecting Hamilton as a GOOD location to film.

This city is great it is great for my kids and the facilities for the old folks are great

The high taxes for local businesses needs to be addressed. Hamilton needs to continue transforming itself from a steel town to a leader in biosciences. Burlington is attracting many IT firms from the United States, what is wrong with our city that we can't do the same?

Just do it already.

There are not enough entry level jobs for students attending here in Hamilton.. so even if people get their education here .. I think most of them will go else where for jobs. How is that helping OUR economy?

Cut bureaucracy and red tape make province pay for social services. Attract businesses related to college and university programs delivered locally. Clean up harbour diversify industries around water become less dependent on steel as the image and environmental costs are a negative for other unrelated businesses considering locating in this area. Develop lands around 403 and new 6 highway as well as the red hill creek for businesses. Develop high-rise apartments downtown to create a new market for business. Condemn buildings that are unsafe. Work with McMaster to attract research and development science based companies.

A plan is definitely an asset as it will also provide the "selling" team with our pluses to use as well as pointing out where we need to improve. Closer working with GO & other out of City transit (get more stops and trains, etc.) would also be a good idea to attract more business and residents. You usually have to spend something to get things even better. We have a wonderful city and area to sell and we need to be more assertive about doing this. Work with fads as well as good backbone. Improving the roads (as you are doing) will also help a lot!

Allow 'creative' industry to develop in areas like Locke and Concession St. This makes the city itself more attractive to live in. Prevent the normal cycle from occurring, i.e. as an area becomes more attractive, due to the 'artist class', developers move in and wipe out the very thing that made it attractive in the first place. Zoning protection to specific neighbourhoods could conceivably prevent this.

It seems sad that industry and business are setting up in surrounding communities.. We need to encourage and support new industry and business in Hamilton. The idea of a buy local campaign is a good one. If people know what is in the community and there is incentive to buy locally, they may just do that.

It feels good to plan for the future, but nobody has a solid record on prognostication. Build and maintain a good city now, for its inhabitants, and others will be attracted to locate here in the future.

On another note, promotion of the city can put the cart before the horse. While the city is not without its attractions, I've often seen visitors attracted by a special event or convention wandering the downtown streets looking for additional things to do. There is still more work to be done before the city can be promoted as a tourist destination."

We should be promoting our City. Promoting conferences and sports groups to come here. Our city has so much to offer. We are sitting back and letting the other cities scoop up these opportunities. This would help our economy so much.

We don't even have our own ""WELCOME TO HAMILTON"" sign on the highway when you arrive at the City. All we have is the standard provincial sign."

We have no show cases, not enough hotel rooms- can hardly run a hockey tournament let alone prestigious events - why not re-structure from within. As we don't seem to have many innovative ideas ourselves.. we need to steal those from other cities to get us started. London/Waterloo/Halifax, great examples. recreation seems part of their overall city plans, # 4 where business locate depends on type of business, wouldn't want to see manufacturing on near new/cleaned up waterfront. But food and small stores would be wonderful with a boardwalk

Concentrate on core services get budget balanced force province to pay for social costs. If debt financing is eliminated taxes can be lowered. Hamilton can beat neighboring regions based on geography if taxes are equal. Develop airport lands and port lands for warehousing businesses and high tech manufacturing. Target businesses which require grads from university and colleges in our area.

Clean environment. Develop airport lands and port. Sell companies on the geography and proximity to U.S.A and GTA markets strong highway system and lack of traffic jams. Ban all residential development from green fields and land close to airport and highways make these areas exclusively commercial.

The world cycling championship was an good thing for us that people saw Hamilton on the international stage and it was great exposure for our area even though it did not make money but the international coverage was fantastic I have met people who have come to visit this area as a result more venues like this should be done.

I answered yes to film development but only if the industry is expected to spend money on accommodation and food in our City. Too many times, crews travel in from Toronto and do not spend money here. Also, fees for road closures and staff expenses could be increased.

Based on my visual survey on garbage day, it seems that the green box is used primarily for lawn yard waste more so than for capturing organic household waste. This plus all the waste that is not diverted from multi-residential, commercial, institutions, parks, etc suggest that perhaps looking at a single stream waste pickup with sorting afterwards would divert more waste from landfill than the current strategies being used - I believe in some European countries follow the method likely due to space issues and the problem of trying to change/educate public's behavior.

Make it easy to do business in Hamilton, low taxes, infrastructure, efficient approvals and no money will have to be spent on promotion. the city can be self promoting.

THE CITY SHOULD NOT PUT ALL ITS EGGS IN ONE BASKET (I.E. AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT) FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS I WOULD BE WEARY OF THE CONTRACTS MADE BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE AIRPORT. WHERE WAS THE CITY IN AUDITING THE FINANCES OF THE AIRPORT. SO FAR CITY HALL HAS FAILED IT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE TAX PAYERS!!! HAMILTON TAX BASE IS BASED ON A 1950'S BASE THERE IS NO MORE HEAVY INDUSTRY IN HAMILTON AND YET NO MAYOR HAS ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE WITH QUEEN'S PARK. ALSO HOSPITALS AND EDUCATION CENTRE DO NOT PAY TAXES LEAVING THE TAX PAYER TO PICK UP THE TAB. THIS SHOULD CHANGE SINCE THEY ARE THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE CITY.

Why don't we make sure that before any money is spent on attracting sports events that we will profit economically?

I believe that the point made above which states that 'From an agricultural perspective, buying local can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and packing materials. It also helps make local farming more profitable which makes selling farmland for development less attractive' is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT and cannot be emphasized enough - there are SO MANY advantages to this type of strategy (health, environmental, economic)...It should be promoted aggressively and the general public should be educated so that they see the benefits and begin to care.

Need more access to land that has sewers etc already in place I would like the focus to be on assisting small, local businesses first with promotion and even tax holidays to fix up and open businesses in existing vacant buildings. Also, push tourism...and make sure attractions are well maintained and worth the price of admission. Put resources to attract small high tech non polluting industry. No pig processors wanted. Empower the various neighbourhoods and most of all, help young adults plug into jobs that pay living wage. This will also save money in policing. I would rather see a few less police but more places for children and adolescents to be able to frequent without having to pay memberships. They could be encouraged to help in set up and maintenance to encourage sense of ownership.

Clean up downtown get rid of Jackson square and rebuild with smaller community based centres ie Hess village concession St Ottawa St small town Ancaster and Dundas. More private housing town homes condos geared to mid income earners plus We need more middle income earners and less welfare slums

100% support developing our airport and employment lands around it. Waterfront should be reserved for small commercial and recreation opportunities only. The City should buy strategic brownfield locations, clean them up, demolish old buildings and sell serviced land. Should significantly invest more money to the Economic Development division. Should further establish a leads generation program and aggressively pursue companies that are looking to expand and highlight the open lands we have available.

Healthcare fair wages and contracts for nurses

More community based ethnic recognition to areas - Vietnamese, Portuguese etc Celebrate and design communities based on common ties and identities.

Make downtown etc user friendly and accessible Why not some big box retail to encourage others to come to centre Hamilton Better parking and or transit to the core  
Increase Call centres for support services like American express

We have a serious lack of high-tech jobs and financial jobs. As a recent university grad I am reluctant to permanently settle in Hamilton, as there are more job opportunities for university-educated grads in other similar cities, such as Burlington, Kitchener-Waterloo and Mississauga.

The amount of traffic leaving the city in the mornings should be an indicator of the serious imbalance of jobs between our city and our neighbours. We need to pursue two paths: encourage downtown development through an effective transit system reaching the entire city, and turning the "Ugly" parts of the city into commercial office spaces. Greenfield development, while necessary and inevitable, is not a sustainable solution.

I remember reading that a local philanthropist was going to donate his million dollar luxury motor coach to be used for Economic Development, whatever happened to that idea?

Private businesses are just that! Let them do their own promoting. City tax dollars are for running the city and not private businesses.

I am not sure I understand the critical tool because I thought that proactively plan future, use resources efficiently and effectively, and anticipate issues to develop policies to meet future needs address critical issues being faced was part of the job undertaken by politicians. A politician is an individual who is a formally recognized and active member of a government, or a person who influences the way a society is governed through an understanding of political power and group dynamics. This includes people who hold decision-making positions in government. Why does the city need to hire others to do the jobs of the elected officials?  
look at the tax structure for small businesses. work with them to promote the city and themselves

The city must move on the redevelopment of the downtown. I find it very discouraging to go to Cops and find that almost every business around is closed while the outlying areas boom. Hamilton is a beautiful city and the core must be its centre piece.

Hamilton needs to develop the airport industrial lands. The market demands these greenfield lands for business parks. If Hamilton doesn't develop this land the jobs (and tax revenue) will go to other cities (i.e. Pickering, Waterloo). Hamilton's airport lands are an ideal location for new business. There are very few businesses interested in brownfields.

The economic development department needs to be expanded to be on par with other neighboring cities.

Spending money in international events doesn't benefit the city as much as people think it does. Most of the tax revenues go to higher levels of government. Resources are better spent on economic development, servicing industrial (airport) lands and repair our terrible roads. " Hamilton should definitely go and make bids for international sporting events to improve the city aging infrastructure.

Invite the Little League World Series here. The cycling was apparently a big winner, so imagine teams from all around the world, their coaches, families and fans...a huge boost for the economy and it provides people that may have never visited here a chance to see what we have to offer(could bring business). Also, Special Olympics, Vanier & Grey Cup, and maybe a Triathlon. Improving how our properties look not how many flowers we can plant around the eye sores makes more sense. It seems more like a cure and less like a band aid.

Statistics indicate that we have lost our manufacturing capability over the past decade. Business owners go where the price is right and it is obviously not right in Hamilton at the moment. It is my opinion that we should take a good hard look at Mississauga and the reign of Hazel. This woman definitely knows what she is doing when it comes to the manufacturing and business sectors of her city. Property taxes can only be lowered by attracting strong business to the area.

Attracting the television and movie industry to our area is well worth the investment. The more we are viewed as a potential in this area the more film producers and location advisors will flock to our area. We have many beautiful desirable building locations.

We should not be spending time, resources and money attracting "low paying" jobs. We need to aim higher and attract higher paying opportunities for our people. Again the questions are written to lead to the desired answer.

Pre-qualifying contractors that are capable of not only doing the work but pay taxes in Hamilton either as a resident and/or business. Too many outside contractors from Toronto etc. are invited to site tours than local contractors. We should be giving more opportunity for local contractors to price the work.

Why should a non tax paying contractor be able to do our day to day maintenance contracts and our high profile projects? Keep the money in Hamilton!"

Sporting events are good as long as they pay for themselves or better yet, make money for the city.

Economic development is caused by having the infrastructure in place and cutting red tape. Once that is done the very organized world will find you and locate. Thinking that you can sell Hamilton by attending trade shows or sending out brochures is old thinking. Finish the Red Hill Expressway, approve 300 acres, service 100 acres, and stand back, when people show up treat them with dispatch & respect."

What are you attracting businesses in Hamilton to? Our infrastructure is broken. Start cleaning and fixing and then business will come.



Please make the downtown core and waterfront people friendly - there are lots of other opportunities for business development.

Primary manufacturing jobs are what we should focus on not service sector.

Stop urban sprawl. Continue to develop lakefront as a 'people place'.

Develop brownfields. Tear down the Lister block - enough talk and discussion - get on with it.

The city to ensure monies are spent on lasting ventures as opposed to a one or two day sporting event which would generate funds but only on a temporary basis. Our tax money should be funneled into lasting projects such as small business development

Cycling races in 2003 GREAT. National Figure skating, National Curling: Great!!"

I would not bring a manufacturing business to Hamilton as the old school Union mentality is very prevalent here. I would rather move my company to China then take a risk at a my company becoming unionized in Hamilton.

Making a strategy should also take into consideration the development of Mexico, China, and other Asian markets. The fact our Auto sector is diminishing day by day with Ontario relying so much on it will hurt Hamilton heavily in the long run. Therefore, manufacturing should not be the initiative. High tech, health care, social services, etc, are the way to go

Hamilton's most promising business in a long time, Lakeport, was because it targeted low income blue collar beer drinkers. This is Hamilton, and with the economic I think supporting local businesses is extremely important and I'm really happy to see it on this survey.

Start the process to shift Hamilton from a blue collar to a white collar town. Go after call centers, computer, I.T., & software firms. Stelco and Dofasco are shrinking: develop the brownfields & use the harbour front and lake front for high end condos, trendy shops and restaurants. They City needs to attract big businesses e.g. manufacturing in order to create a sustainable city. A larger business would in turn employ more citizens that 'hopefully' live and work in Hamilton.

Film industry.-Most of the prosperity generated by film is short lived & decided by factors outside of Hamilton/Canada. However, this could be an opportunity to train skilled people for the film industry here. It could also help promote/employ local actors, writers, & those already trained for film production.

Hosting Big international sporting events usually ends up costing the region far more than they get out it. (Ie: Montreal) it can also become an open field for rip-off artists. Smaller events, like the Canadian Open Golf event, international cycling races, can promote & benefit the GHA, without bankrupting us.

Long range planning for any area can be a bigger planning mess than no plan at all. The local Government changes repeatedly

More incentives to develop brown field sites with less focus on airport lands

Hamilton has so much to offer in all areas. Clean it up, celebrate its communities, celebrate its achievements, promote its assets and success will come. There's a revitalization coming--lets grab every chance to promote a well planned, environmentally sustainable, knowledge-based economy to prepare and compete in the larger markets.

Perhaps more time could be spent on publicizing Hamilton Airports benefits. The Airport has allotted of advantages over Toronto .

Improve the downtown area. Take a trip to Calgary, they have same issues downtown with homeless but their downtown core area looks 150% better than ours. We need to get rid of boarded up old buildings and put condo, restaurant and shopping in the area. People also need places to park and to feel safe when traveling to and from the parking areas. Theatre Aquarius needs more restaurant/shopping within walking distance, we usually park, visit theatre and leave as there is not a lot of restaurants or shopping in the area to keep us downtown before/after the theatre.

Hamilton will struggle to shedding the "lunch bucket town" label but with each piece of national/international exposure (Canadian Open, World Cycling) it helps so we need to continue to show a community emerging (like a phoenix from the ashes) as our traditional employers downsize and new employers surface

Again, top priority should be given to creative problem solving around how all of these issues relate to a sustainable environment. Change must be mandated by government and municipal government has an important lead role.

The city must take a firm stand on development that is sustainable and affordable. Can we really afford to create a massive park at the very limit of the city when waterfront and brownfields provide optimum services. This is especially important in an energy constrained future. Where is the follow-up study to the Gilbert report on Peek Oil?

The city should create a master plan for revitalization of the downtown core consisting of new residential, retail, and commercial developments. The city should then proceed to carry out the plan by purchasing and developing property, offering loans to developers, tax incentives, marketing, free parking, etc. Whatever it takes to get it done. There doesn't appear to be any master plan at the present time. Also, we should put restrictions on urban sprawl and promote development of the inner city and waterfront.

Stop competing for events which cost a lot on promoting, look to London and Kitchener as models not Toronto, we can never compete with Toronto. Do not waste money on hockey team pursuit either

The answer here is simple.....more business encouragement to reside in Hamilton equals, two-fold, more jobs (income) and municipal tax revenue. How could anyone disagree?  
TV adds, Billboards in Toronto, Toronto Star adds

Aggressively attract IT, media, and other modern, white-collar jobs. Allow Hamiltonians in these fields to work in their own community rather than having to commute to Oakville, Toronto, etc. Bring Hamilton's image into the 21st century by both creating these types of jobs, but not neglecting the industry jobs that Hamilton was built on. Encourage "trendy" stores (like many of the businesses in Westdale) to locate in other areas Hamilton near major bus routes.

The farmer's market is great...the parking and hassle to get down there is not! For people to buy local produce, you have to make it EASY for the people to get there...

If you are asking these questions now what have these depts. been doing in the past? Get the right people for the jobs.

Great hosted, well executed events always make a City-

I can only support dedicating more resources to economic development if they are targeted to two priorities- knowledge based industries and local service needs; about a strategy that puts high priority on large scale projects or on the trans shipment of goods;

A further priority has to be on investment in people and local resources, and not necessarily on attracting highly skilled workers from outside who will come anyway because of the nature of the current economy; live local, eat local, buy local work local;

Key strategic investment is more useful than broad tax write offs such as the BTR program that has no guarantee of results.

Pay much more attention to small business - stop trying to attract the 'big boys'. Small business people do not ask for hand-outs the way many of the developers and larger corporations do. They feel a pride in their business etc. The gaping windows of the Lister black would not happen if it had not fallen into the hands of a LIUNA. Stop trying to support and encourage those kinds of people, instead hold them accountable and set an example.

Planning has nothing whatever to do with E&D and the departments should not be together. E&D should be a separate City Department, and should never be removed from the scrutiny of City Council as the Chamber seems to suggest.

Since amalgamation, my services have been cut and my taxes have increased. I live in a 5-story condo building. If you want to encourage downtown living, you should do as other municipalities are doing: instead of using 100% of the residential value to calculate municipal taxes, use a lower percentage (suggested: 70%). This would encourage people to move into buildings and away from suburbs, thus bringing more population downtown, simply by reducing the amount of annual taxes they are paying on their property. This reduced tax calculation would only be valid for those living in buildings.

Buying local is the best thing we could do to encourage our small businesses, local farmers and local economy. Free parking downtown might be.

Although I agree that filming in Dundas can bring much needed monies into our community there needs to be far great communication between the companies and the community. Living on Millers lane in Dundas I am frequently inconvenienced by film crews across the street in municipal lot 7D. They make a lot of noise at night and create traffic issues. If they were to notify local residents prior (not as they are parking their trucks which is usually the case) to their set up and filming and provide an on site liaison to deal with any issues I would be far more receptive to their presence...It is my neighbourhood not theirs.

Absolutely support the maintenance and development of small business opportunities. Also the Buy local idea. Get rid of the big box stores: they waste resources and money from this community!

We need to focus on the lower city. The lower city has a great housing stock (potential gentrification), excellent road network and the potential for rapid transit and passenger rail (GO). Employment should be focused in the ample space available downtown (the sea of surface parking lots) and the north end (brownfield). The lower city could accommodate a much higher population and is attractive to those who favour an urban environment. Also, lower city development should be urban in nature, no gas stations, suburban strip malls and big box crap. Instead, high-rise condos, street front retail, converting old buildings to lofts, etc...

The other side of the coin is image, and businesses don't want to come to Hamilton.

Long Range Planning is tricky. Things can change quickly leaving well intentioned planning in the dust. But the biggest problem is the planning department is unable to make exciting possibilities exciting to people.

Buy local is a great idea! Leave the big sporting events to cities that can afford it.

Again, we have to be guided by what we are trying to achieve on a larger scale. If we are trying to be more than just a Toronto suburb, we have an uphill battle to fight. We want to encourage people to work in Hamilton by attracting business, but business at the "higher level" such as corporate head offices etc. This means investing money to attract these businesses but also building an infrastructure that is appealing to these types of individuals. Invest in art, entertainment as well as things that can boost our global popularity such as film.

I think Hamilton should stop touting the aerotropolis - concentrate more on brownfield development. Think long term about Hamilton's place in a global market and how we can compete.

Retail development needs to be reviewed. Consumers have only a set amount of funds to spend. The more retail space developed, the more each and every business will suffer. Further, permitting new development to go unchecked, will never entice the retailers to return to the Downtown Core.

An enhanced waterfront may be a key to a New Hamilton, but it needs to coexist with commerce. As fuel prices soar, more traditional forms of transporting manufactured goods will be explored. Develop the brownfields and advertise the fact that Hamilton is a place where Rail/Road and Water meet. This is a rare and valuable asset.

We should fear the fact that education and health care are the number 1 and 2 employment opportunities these days."

I think that if the City is to actively try to attract the film industry, there ought to be 1) guidelines on hiring a certain % of local actors, extras and technicians and 2) proper consultation and compensation for people living in the areas affected by the filming.

I'd like to see the City start finding a way to make some in-house cuts & reduce tax increases. Stop increasing taxes to small business, home owners and work with what you've got for a few years.

You will never get small business to succeed if there is no local parking. That's just the lazy society we've become accustomed to. We want to park nearby, run in, race to car & leave. Just something to keep in mind & not forget about. It's more important than you think.

To keep small business healthy you must have people living and working in the downtown. Box stores kill city centers. High tech business. Beautification of streetscapes. Planning for future biking and walking areas. Make local parks more attractive to play in.

The city requires more essential jobs such as police officers.

We have already lost one company from locating here because of the attitude not in my backyard. Letting these types of people get their way leads to no industry wanting to locate here. Hamilton will never be a primary tourist destination. Emphasis should be on making the city livable for the residents. If this is successful, short term visits will be attractive to people in surrounding areas and tourists.

Hamilton has a long way to go in getting rid of the stereotype of the smoky polluting steel town - and unfortunately our environmental track record is not great -- I'd rather see the city clean up what it currently has -before it goes out seeking more -- otherwise - high tech/ clean industry is the way to go-

Other cities have revitalized their downtowns by historic facades on its buildings, beautiful waterfronts (minus railway tracks, abandoned factories) with little shops, promotion of their farmer's markets, events to attract people and have an attractive entrance to the city (parts of York have little appeal.) If City of Hamilton could get rid of Up in Smoke Cafe- I don't understand why much worse downtown spots are not cleaned up? Downtown is the heart of a city and I think in the long run much more revenue would be coming into our city- then what developer's pay for urban sprawl.

Build on existing strengths (eg. McMaster, Mohawk, health services, the port, existing retail nodes), target a few promising areas for growth (eg. brownfields, Farmers' Market, film, Mac Innovation Park), and dare a few visionary initiatives (eg. encourage the arts).

There is however no hope for this city as long as it has crappy air quality. Few who can afford to want to live or locate anywhere below the mountain. This didn't matter 50 years ago, it does now.

Incentives to encourage business to come to the city -like reduced taxes for a period of time. More police walking downtown. Free parking or buses downtown to encourage people to come downtown if there were more business

There needs to be a "big picture" approach to all of the services. All of the services provided by the City should work together to create a sustainable future for the City of Hamilton. McMaster Innovation Park, and Harbourfront renewal will be good for Hamilton in terms of employment and moving away from the traditional manufacturing.

We need to redevelop some of the old industrial lands, but not for heavy industry. We also need to attract new kinds of employment such as health care research or other non steel based business

The point is not to set up more bureaucracies and spend more money to ensure a well-run city. We already have very high property taxes and presumably enough resources to enact good policies. I am somewhat disturbed by the tenor of many of these questions which first site a good area for the city to be focusing on then ask if MORE money should be spent on these instead of whether there should be a shift in focus. Given the level of taxes we already pay, it is probably more an issue of using the current resources more efficiently and in a more intelligent manner.

Brownfield redevelopment needs to be pursued to make way for non-polluting, higher paying businesses.

Mayor and council need to make their own priorities clear and act on them through clear decision-making and initiatives, not through the establishment of more studies and commissions.

We spend too much of our talent and monetary resources on trying to attract huge sporting events. Meanwhile, our streets have huge potholes, our sewers are exploding, the city looks dirty and tired, the poor are ignored etc. Let's get our basic needs looked after. A new, improved Hamilton will attract events without so much effort.

Stop wasting the tax payers money we do not need any more expensive survey's ,you get paid a lot of money to make educated decision so do it if you cannot we will elect some one who can.

People will buy what they want, as long as the quality and the price is right, regardless of the initiatives and promotion dollars spent.

Film studios will go where they are treated well and where they receive the best bang for their buck. We already have a good reputation so no need to invest more.

Sporting Events: I agree they should continue but there must be consistent metrics used to determine the net benefit to the city, if these events do not produce measurable dollars for the city they should not be held.

Economic Development: Outsource this extremely important area of city management to an expert business company that has to be held accountable (financially) to specific metrics i.e. number and quality of new businesses, net new property taxes and jobs brought to the city by these businesses. We can no longer afford to leave these important decisions to bureaucrat's intent on keeping their funding and their jobs as the motivation to create a better economic environment for the city. We need people to be held financially responsible.

This city should do more to encourage local employment opportunities. The agricultural sector is not going to be cost-competitive on a global scale as long as wages & costs remain at current levels. We should make best use of those resources in areas where we have a competitive advantage, ie Niagara Wines & tender fruits. Policies that restrict the development of agricultural industries and land use policies must be reviewed from an economic standpoint.

I think the film industry office is not important at all; it produces more problems for the residents than it does benefits (parking, traffic blockages, problems accessing buildings). Spending by production companies when they are in town only create a short term increase in business which is not sustainable, so the benefit is lost.

I agree that sustainable economic development is a priority for Hamilton and therefore I support additional resources be allocated to the effort. The activities in this area have to more than just "marketing" however. As someone once said: "Half of my advertising budget does not result in any increase in sales. The trouble is, I don't know which half. Given the manufacturing and technology base in the city, coupled with McMaster and Mohawk, I judge that Hamilton can become a center for environmental technology development and manufacturing. Now that we have all awakened to the global warming issue, I believe that there are considerable opportunities developing which Hamilton can exploit.

The more we can bring this city the better. I believe we should attract any and all types of business and events at almost any cost. We lag behind because we do not go the extra mile. I would support a campaign to improve the local market and an expansion of same. Would agree to the hosting of sports events once the city has had a face lift...get rid of those businesses downtown that are not appropriate and clean up the signage.

As a city we need to get off the continued kick of Brownfield redevelopment. It is not working and will not work unless there is a significant financial reason to go to Brownfields ie: no property taxes for 10 years or land is free and as we know this is not going to happen. As a council when is the city going to stop missing major opportunities and start to be "Open for Business". The Greenfield and airport is the future of this city and the city is seriously letting the tax paying public down. The most important issue is the city's image outside of Hamilton, and as an business person that deals all over the province and country it is very discouraging to have the extreme negative

While the City needs to recognize the importance and value of its brownfield and waterfront lands, not all development will want to locate there. The city must be selective in where it attracts new employment to, recognizing their needs and that it is not a '1 size fits all' solution.

Don't waste time with branding. Toronto has utterly failed at it. Likewise, the Canadian film industry is in poor health, and big sports venues cost us more than we receive. Spend the \$ where there is long-term potential - new, long term jobs. "

Strategic planning by this city has been a joke, but not unlike many other major organizations. Strategic planning is not a top down activity, it requires real input from the workers and their organizations as well as agreed strategies for continuous improvement that meet the goals and vision of the organization

Attracting and retaining jobs is critical and should be receiving more attention. We have an established city with history and character and need to give attention to preventing it from merely becoming a feeder city for other municipalities. I believe that a healthy community creates jobs across different sectors, for people with varying abilities and gifts. Hamilton currently has strong blue and white collar labour groups and should develop with these existing communities in mind - let's play to our strengths and take them to world-class standing.

Initiatives are all very well, but we can't host decent sporting events at places like Copps Coliseum which are falling apart. And we can't encourage people to buy at local businesses when national chains dominate in the city. So we need to get the facilities before we promote them.

The city should focus on attraction/maintaining jobs which are "green/clean" & that have an employee base of those with higher education (adv manufacture, healthcare, innovation park). Not only might it replace the steel mill pollutants / city's dirty image but increase the number of resident's/inbound commuters with higher incomes spending money in the city/adding to the tax base (possibly with bigger homes). making the core area appealing will increase the demand for high end housing/condos & adding entertainment value at the waterfront will also increase pedestrian/consumer traffic and provide an alternative to going to Burlington and spending money there. increased local farm campaign would do little but farmers market ads should increase

My Comments:

- City planning is nonexistent. Abolish, then reform with new personnel
- Sporting events are very welcome but HECFI is keeping events away."
- Hamilton is still, and likely for the near future will be, considered a blue-collar town. Attracting more high-tech and bio/health jobs I think will naturally improve the image of Hamilton.

You need to convince outsiders that the city isn't run by the mob.

Build world class film studios.

Brownfield development and the restoring of old buildings and warehouses will create jobs limit the city's ecological footprint. By knocking down decrepit and selling them to developers the city will create demolition jobs, income from the sale and property tax.

A strategy that INCLUDES sporting events is acceptable, but not at the expense of the longer term solutions such as employment. I'm not anti-film production, but like sporting events, it brings in some money for a finite period of time. Film companies pay fees and buy some services, but not in a sustainable way. Again OK to include in a plan, but as a priority. Sprawl has not helped the city in the past, and it will not help the city in the future. Planned growth has to be more than adding serviced land to the furthest limits of the city boundaries. If this is preferred, then we need a FULL definition of 'serviced land' to include transportation, health, police, fire, waste collection/disposal, etc. Putting in roads and sewers and hydro is Hamilton has not exploited its film industry potential. For one it doesn't have a website dedicated solely to this industry. I have worked in this industry as a location scout and having a site that shows off the character of the city and which also provides easy to find info is a practical inexpensive way of getting more money into the city. Developing airport lands is another way of killing the inner city and bankrupting our resources.

I am skeptical about most of the proposals for task forces mentioned here (e.g. question 5). Many of these economic development efforts should be an integral part of the job of City management.

The underlying assumption here is that more tax revenue should be used in these areas, but the effect on our basic services is not added in to the picture.

This city desperately needs to revitalize EXISTING public hardscaping/infrastructure, as well as social and cultural infrastructure. Economic development must come from the overarching goal of better living, which inherently means local purchases, small-medium business, brownfield development, etc. Economic strategies CAN NOT be treated in isolation from social, environmental, or health improvements.



I think the first question is what kind of a city do we want Hamilton to be? From the answer to this question, it will be possible to plan for the future and allocate resources effectively. Marketing to attract businesses or events is pointless unless it has a solid foundation and only if when people/businesses/events come we are able to fulfill the 'promise' we have made to them in the marketing.

Remember the money wasted twice on trying to get the sporting event that the former mayor wanted so bad. Also how much money did Hamilton lose on the bicycle race?

Attract & encourage businesses to set up shop in Hamilton but do not give them tax breaks... because this defeats the purpose of having businesses to contribute to tax revenues. Hamilton should not be in the business of owning & operating entertainment facilities like Copps Coliseum etc or Seniors retirement/care homes. These should be sold off and run privately! City should not try to operate businesses in areas that they don't have expertise in.

In my opinion you have to change the mentality people associate with the City of Hamilton. I grew up here it was a lunch bucket town and has not moved forward into the new millennium.

The City is dying from overspending and poor infrastructure. I don't like to admit I live here. I do most of my shopping in Burlington. It is just closer to all the amenities I need. I can't say I go into Hamilton on purpose for anything.

I do not understand the Brownfield and Greenfield references.

Hamilton's manufacturing sector has shrunk to an all-time low. The city must shift it's economic growth focus to future industries, such as biotech/medical, advanced manufacturing, food and IT. For a city of nearly 500,000 people, our economy is pathetically small and getting worse. The MIP project is a step in the right direction and is long overdue. But more must be done to attract new manufacturing industries and quickly! New industrial land development like the Airport lands is crucial for Hamilton's future as a viable city.

More effective transportation/access from GTA

My understanding is that in Canada, unlike the US, municipalities do not have any real teeth in the economic development area.

Notwithstanding my previous comments and in terms of job creation, we should not be fussy, i.e. any new job created is a good job.

Give incentives to businesses to locate here in Hamilton. Make it a place for future businesses to be proud that they chose Hamilton to start their businesses.

There is a growing need to the local farmers (there are so few left due to the developers) that we buy our food locally to help keep our local economics strong. The same goes to locally owned businesses throughout the Hamilton area.

I am the biggest sports fan there is and I would like to see major events in the city, However, we have many more pressing issues than conducting events for the few who would be able to afford them- i.e. homeless people, clean-up and improve the downtown core. To make the downtown area attractive-stop approving the building of super malls. Shut down traffic in the downtown and have a pedestrian mall-I am sure that you could encourage growth in this area.

Give incentives to manufacturing companies. Stop the big box stores. We have lost about 11000 jobs out of Hamilton. Those people are spending their money elsewhere which doesn't make any sense. Do not give into the Developers of the Lister Block that deal stinks. They will make a killing if the city or the province kicks in the amount of money that they want. To pay thirty million over 15 yrs for rent is total madness. when office rent is about 12\$ per sq ft. These Developers will be getting their building for practically nothing. I would love a deal like that. In fact I don't know anyone who wouldn't. These are not true Developers they are just trying to get away with a sweet heart deal. Please think this deal over its not a good deal.

Stop trying to put Hamilton on the map and work with what you have. I think we spend way too much money trying to attract business and sporting events. The people arranging such events/business' should be doing their homework when selecting a host location. Hamilton will sell itself. Past pursuit of such activity can be easily analyzed to see if the revenues spent chasing them actually paid for itself

We must have serviceable land readily available. We must cut the wait time for businesses, if we are not ready or cause delay in plans, business will go elsewhere.

Item three on types of jobs strikes me as limited in scope and written from a big business perspective. Even 'small' business tends to have multiple employees in mind. Rather support the development of 'micro' businesses [under 5 employees] with an emphasis on recycling and cooperative undertakings. Local agriculture hardly fits into 'food and beverage manufacturing' and is also very important in my opinion. Item 6 refers to film and TV, there seems to be very little interaction or spin-off for local culture from these troops, who's benefiting here?

Neighborhood watch associations are going to be able to increase awareness of small businesses and opportunities to the community. That is, if they can have support from the city. economic growth is crucial to our keeping Hamilton alive. The more attractive we look the better we do.

Sporting events merely help those that have a business that would profit. The residents receive no direct benefit other usually a lot of inconvenience.

With the presence of the steel mills (and many other related industries), Hamilton could promote itself as the Recycling Capitol of North America. It could be a strategy in attracting development in the brown-field areas. The infrastructure is already existing - warehousing, transportation (road, rail, seaway). Hamiltonians would be proud (and Torontonians could cross the Skyway and see "blue" rather than pollution).

The International Bike Races really showcased the city. I phone friends all over North America to tune in ESPN or whatever and look at the beautiful aerial coverage. I was proud to say "that's where I live!"

Create a friendly small business environment, along with financial incentives. Attract more of the non-industrial based business which would diversify Hamilton businesses in general and move the stereotype away from a "blue collar, industrial" city.

Keep the initiative to renew the downtown core area. There is evidence of how it once was beautiful and full of character. Continue to support small businesses and do create the "buy local" awareness campaign.

I support efforts to make the industrial waterfront and other brownfield industrial properties in the lower city attractive to investors. Our port is a great asset and generates a lot of economic activity.

I believe that the proposal for an aerotropolis around Hamilton Airport is highly speculative and risky. I do not think that the taxpayers should put a lot of money into this development unless there is quite strong evidence that all things considered the return on this investment will be very positive--not just in terms of jobs, but also in terms of the environment, the pattern of future development, etc.

Put more money into arts programs at Mohawk and McMaster, have more graduate schools in Hamilton like law, teacher's college etc, to encourage students graduating from Mohawk and McMaster to continue their education in Hamilton rather than going to Toronto and other big cities, and then give them incentives to stay in Hamilton to work.

Do more long-range planning and FOLLOW THROUGH! Go for smaller sustainable initiatives that help locally. Forget the "boom and bust" areas like movies. Avoid the tax-devouring sports events/stadia/teams which enrich a few. In the long run what difference do they make eg where is Hamilton in the cycling world to-day after our past success?

**INITIATE TAX BENEFITS. LOWER BUSINESS AND PROPERTY TAXES UNTIL BUSINESS IS ESTABLISHED AND SHOWING PROFIT.**

I have been unable to borrow money to be able to work in my community. I am an intelligent capable individual and I have been very unhappy working as an employee. There are no ways to support individuals who want to work on their own in Hamilton. Finding intelligent people to talk to is impossible. The local bankers are very short sighted and tight in their actions and thinking. It is impossible for an individual to acquire property of an adequate size to build a house either for myself to live in and sell the house I have to provide housing in the city or to build as a speculative venture to build far better houses than are offered by local builders. There are no reasonable means for people to custom order a house unless they pay double.

Simple: build a casino downtown. That we blew the opportunity to do so years ago was a fatal mistake for the core. A casino will draw business, entertainment, restaurants, and revitalize the core.

Using local education resources such as Mohawk and McMaster University along with High Schools to help in these kinds of programs by developing the case studies required to make informed decisions. Why do we always have to look at paying some consulting firm staffed by people that don't know our city to make recommendations on our city.

Any additional funding should be allocated to the Small Business Enterprise centre, Brownfield redevelopment and Hamilton Incubator of Technology, waterfront development and then the airport. Whatever you have been doing Downtown is starting to work...so allocate more funding to that or related programs...as downtown prospers so will the rest of the city as brownfields are mainly downtown and this will only spread to the waterfront as well it's a natural progression to economic sustainability....focus on the Airport development and surrounding lands for development opportunities for medium to large commercial developments with low environmental impacts. The business tax reduction has and will be beneficial in attracting business to Ham.

Encourage growth and economic stability to Hamilton's east end by establishing a VIA rail station at the Centre mall area. Lots of Parking, close to QEW, renew retail opportunities to the Centre mall. Do not continue to cram all services to downtown core where there is no parking. Expand the vision out of the downtown core. This would be a absolutely fantastic opportunity to bring jobs and increased economic tax base to Hamilton.

I would support more money being spent towards planning and economic development only if we had a good track record. Planning & economic development has been abysmal in Hamilton - lost opportunity and mistakes upon mistakes. I would only support more monies if the department were completely revamped and proven people with successful track records were hired.

We need to develop secondary industries and encourage our work force to become more sophisticated and talented. The city core is disgusting; dirty & ugly - who cares about the Lister Block. Get rid of the vagrants, the litter, the loiterers and the dilapidated buildings. We need to get people working and living in the heart of the city.

The City should offer Tax Incentives (in a well thought way) to make it more attractive for new companies to settle in Hamilton.

Create industrial developments in the outskirts of the City and promote among service and small manufacturing companies the use of all those abandoned buildings in older parts of the city."

Most citizens would not know about issues such as whether or not Hamilton should pursue a different economic development structure. Most ideas have been tried elsewhere. I think City Hall should look at what has worked well elsewhere and use those strategies or modified versions of them.

Try to fix up Copps Coliseum it is looking really old.

It is easy for me to say 'spend money to attract jobs, services and events' to Hamilton but I think the hard part is balancing how much to spend on each.

Money needs to be allocated to develop industry, businesses, and jobs. However, city council has been throwing money at the downtown core without any appreciable benefits while ignoring the development of the airport lands. This has been in large part due to pettiness by council members and the pressing ahead of personal agendas while disregarding the needs to the city.

Tax breaks and other forms of municipal handouts to small businesses are a drain on the individual city taxpayer.

If an independent businessman can't make it without handouts he/she shouldn't be in business. Hamiltonians pay higher property taxes than any similar sized city in Canada. This is outrageous!

Support educational efforts more to align with the needs of the community in terms of jobs - develop an appreciation by City officials and people in general of the importance of supporting early learning for the children of our community. Support career development opportunities and partnerships between business and education not just at the university and college level but at all levels of education - lets get it right from the start.

More head offices and manufacturing of high end consumables will attract white collar workers who will spend and live within our community. We need more manufacturing jobs for those who have been squeezed out over the past 20 years. We need to make it easier for the retailers that are currently here to do business within the city. Free parking and lower taxes would certainly help the small business owners, of whom I am one. We want more potential customers be drawn to this city, conventions would help. But, with few hotels and little to draw or keep them here, it is hard to foresee. Lobby for tougher trade restrictions on items imported from China and India!!

Economic development will be key to long-term prosperity in Hamilton. Prior to Mayor Fred, there only seemed to be one solution: the airport lands. To me, this completely ignored not only other possible development locations, but ALSO the need to significantly improve our municipal infrastructure to attract and support new business. Previous leadership failed to understand that a shiny, new airport terminal alone is not sufficient to attract business. We must understand the drivers for attracting business and for creating a long-term, sustainable development plan.

CLEAN UP THE CITY'S CENTRE AND EAST END. CAN WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE RAIL YARD AT THE WATERFRONT? WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO RELOCATE THE BUILDINGS ADJACENT TO THE WATERFRONT PARK TO THE UNDESIRABLE AREAS BEYOND (EAST)OF THERE?

I BELIEVE WE NEED OUR LANDS ON TOP OF THE ESCARPMENT FOR FARMING. IF WE CAN PUT INDUSTRY IN OTHER PLACES IN THIS AREA OK BUT IF NOT....THEN NO

The city should stand up to developers and large chain stores who want to open up large stores and destroy local business. All reports coming from the U.S. pertaining to Walmart, proves that the average wage goes down when these stores come into communities. Lets not continue down this road.

It is really quite simple. Hamilton's image is in the dumpster, so to speak. This city that sits on the Niagara Escarpment, the waterfront, and thousands of hectares of unspoiled (yet) wilderness full of wildlife...and no one wants to come here. Hamilton offers more than any city in southern Ontario can come even close to offering, and again, people and businesses stay away. In fact the people I know who have come to Hamilton from other cities such as Toronto cannot believe how nice it is. Why? Because Hamilton's image is in the dumpster. Who works in the marketing department anyway? Anyone? Give me 2 years in Hamilton's marketing dept. and the city will be turning away businesses. We have a good product...we just don't sell it.

We are in an international society so buy local has some but limited value. What has been done is not working now. Planning has to be realistic and futuristic both.

I agree that SMEs are an important aspect to growth - focus on downtown to prevent the sprawl, as this will lend the business support to maintaining and developing local transit. Rural Hamilton's strength is it's open and undeveloped areas - again, local and smaller initiatives would work better than huge plans and developments.

What do you mean by employment lands for economic development? I did not consider waterfront development to be economic development, but environmental or social.

Money can be allocated to these areas but will it be spent on ""winning and dining"" colleagues and friends who really have no say in actually making a change??

The City needs to better support citizens who are taking initiatives in starting their own small businesses and community programs (exemplified by the hub of activity currently active on James Street North). Attracting chain stores and big business is important, but largely these business contribute little but low-paying jobs to our city. Hamilton could promote itself as a progressive city that welcomes environmentally friendly technology, forward thinking companies and open-minded citizens by adopting a 'think globally, act locally' philosophy.

Hamilton has many attractive features which are hidden gems. I have lived in Vancouver, Victoria, Ottawa, Boston, South Africa and the Arctic. I think Hamilton is blessed with wonderful geography and waterfront. The more we enhance/improve our physical environment and retain the heritage of our buildings, people will want to live and work here. The film industry, health care, education and information technology are relatively clean and futuristic industries. We should bend over backwards to get them here and keep them here.  
repeal our breed ban

Support for "buy and eat local" initiatives would improve the local food production economy while reducing our dependence on transported foods. Raising awareness that buying from locally owned businesses (although often a bit more expensive) retains more jobs and money in the community could be a productive area to pursue.

Can you tell I am very skeptical about our local government? I challenge government to be more accountable and open and efficient .

I feel our downtown core area is in major need of an overhaul. The downtown core should draw people to it. We as Hamiltonians should be proud of our downtown & I for one am embarrassed about it. The parking downtown needs to be opened up as free parking & the old & worn out buildings need to be either torn down or an incentive given to fix them up for possibly new businesses. Also the seedy peep show establishment with its neon lights right on the main street is degrading as a Hamiltonian.

In terms of Economic Development the money is there not enough cash based processes associated to bring sustainability to the process needs? Also, combining the planning with the economic aspects could reduce the delays and miscommunications that can take place between these 2 developments.

I live downtown and believe that businesses need to be attracted to downtown, brownfields and the waterfront. It would likely be cheaper to do this than to build the aertropolis and would revitalize the centre city.

I stated this in another part of the survey, but I definitely support the buy local option as far as food goes. The city could use some vacant properties to house vendors selling their locally grown produce etc. I also only support the increase in planners if they come up with a plan and stick to it. The issue of building on good growing land should have been settled years ago. These lands should be identified and labeled agricultural. There should be disincentives to selling this land for development purposes.

The council is stuck in the Neanderthal age. We are being beaten out by much smaller municipalities in attracting job opportunities.

There need to be observable measures to assist in measuring/monitoring progress and also provide a way of being accountable.

I think we need to consider the physical beauty of our area. We need to expand our waterfront in such a way that all benefit but the people living in the area aren't negatively impacted. We are between Stratford and Shaw. We should use this to fill our hotels with people who take in both and bus them back and forth using Packages that help our local hotels and eateries and our downtown area, We need to have better connections to the Botanical Gardens from the hotels and also take locals to Lake Ontario. by using a special bus that runs hourly in the summer. Also an Elevator to take tourists and locals up the mountain would reduce buses and increase business on the mountain.

We should take more positive action relating to the problem of urban renewal and the city should acquire properties in the inner city and on the waterfront by expropriation if necessary and proceed with cleaning the sites where it is required. A program of recovery could be tied to those greenfield properties that are in demand by developers. If you wish access to green field sites you must propose a plan of equal value for a brownfields site.

A good example of renewed usage is that the old Otis Elevator head office building on Victoria Ave. N now has a good number of doctor's offices located there because of the proximity to the General Hospital. Now that's smart!

Why are we allowing McMaster University to consider a Burlington campus ? "

It appears as though the city questions its direction and budget every year. A longer term plan is definitely needed. I'd love to buy local more - but convenient parking (close by local business and at no fee) doesn't seem consistent with this strategy.

# A Healthy Environment

*Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how the City could create a healthier environment?*

## **Responses**

Vision 2020 has not reported since 2004. Resources needed to keep Vision 2020 alive as it is heart of Hamilton community. The City undertakes a number of initiatives to improve its environmental operational impact, good first start for leadership in tandem with the City support of community initiatives. Communication of the City's environmental initiatives is needed. Climate Change & energy demand are emerging issues, need recognition and application of knowledge of these topics into City decisions and operations moving the environmental bar forward alongside economic development and public services. Q6. No pick up here, old style bulk pickup day's idea was good as allowed people to scavenge/collect items at curbside and use locally.

Cosmetic pesticides are not required for agriculture - the question is misleading and should not lump agriculture in with sports fields which will bias the response in favour of pesticides.

Why not have junk exchange days or make arrangements with charities or social service agencies to take the useful items in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Yes have the service for the true garbage (maybe contracted out), but charge for it.

I do not think sports fields should be exempt from the pesticide by-law since children are frequent users. The city should encourage carpooling by developing additional carpool lots, car sharing, bicycling and walking. Public transit should be free. Road maintenance should be paid for by people with licensed vehicles in the city. Electric and hybrid vehicles should park free. Small urban vehicles should be registered. The city should help develop alternative energy.

We need to make Hamilton a safer place to live and work. We should support green ideas as long as they are some what cost effective.

We need to encourage green power generation.

Support rural residents! Make a better energy plan so that wind, hydro electric and solar energy can be produced by rural residents and farmers to be sold back at a fair price. If farmers can make some money with wind generation, they would help the environment, keep their fields clear, reduce greenhouse gasses, increase habitat for wildlife.

We need to also make the manufactures responsible for the products that they create, not just the end consumer. There is no need for the use of pesticides on any land, we need to change how we think about the environment, i.e. lets work with it not try to control it.

Retain ALL agricultural lands and natural spaces. ALL development should be on brown fields and infill and intensification. STOP building roads and make pubic transport more convenient. More bike paths. Develop an import substitution plan so that Hamilton produces most of its own food and other essential goods. Develop a plan for the City to be carbon free by 2050. Use The Natural Step process to guide all City planning.



We actually viewed the Green Bin Program as a huge PRO when deciding whether to shop for a home in Burlington or Hamilton (Lowville vs. Flamborough) - it is a great program but the next step should be a tag system for garbage- a dollar or more a bag would be reasonable (that is what we pay at our summer home) - some people are only motivated by their pocket book.

Waste management needs more promotion. Yes educating our city, giving residents an incentive. TAKE A POSITIVE STANCE TO WASTE NOT A NEGATIVE- PUNITIVE POLICY TO WASTE. Promote with well known city people from all walks of life promoting waste management. More work needs to be done with apartments, business who use dumpsters. Yes they many pay but at what const.

It would be healthier for all of us if agricultural lands were not exempted from the pesticide ban as organic food is a much healthier option. Also, having all farms within the city of Hamilton boundaries being organic would be very good for Hamilton's image and economy. In regards to sports fields, children use sports fields and they must be protected even more so than adults from harmful chemical products. The 'green revolution' is a chance for s struggling city like Hamilton to re-invent itself and become a healthy, desirable place to live, work, shop, and vacation. I was unaware of the city of Hamilton's anti-idling policy although I support it completely I have seen numerous city vehicles idling, sometimes for hours at a time.

Bulk pickup- please continue this service for free- not all of us have pick-up trucks to take things to a transfer station. Think incineration.

Clean vehicles help... green roofs help... wind generation areas could help... expanding green programs and offering green tax credits to business may help... Plant more trees lets really develop our green canopy over the city... monitor emissions discharges in co-operation with the MOE from heavy industries. Fine those who go over limits. Look to European countries for waste management ideas. No more landfills should be built we have the technology to take care of it without burying it. Anti Idling bylaw should be passed but also enforced!! Without enforcement it's useless as the paper it's written on. When the city plants trees make sure to come back to water them for the first while... you can't count on Mother Nature to do it all...

We need to help our environment: recycle, divert from land fills as much as possible. Keep current initiated projects only. Keep all expenses down.

In hearing that there is no prevention now for Global warming, on CNN and other News channels, how can we justify spending all this money to "fix" it now... We should have started this a long time ago!

The City should NOT export waste outside its borders except to a partner neighboring municipality.

Exempt agriculture from pesticide ban, kids don't play there, but not sports fields they should be healthy/environmentally friendly products only.

Hamilton's recycling initiatives are trail blazing. The only flaw in the plan, as I see it is the confusion of the garage allowed in the green carts. Traditional composting does not allow for animal by products like bones to be put in the compost pile. So why does the city encourage it? I find this act confusing when trying to teach others to do their own composting.

WE currently recycle and separate all of our garbage. As for the bulk pick-up I think it helps because people are less likely to discard their garbage just any where which could create a whole lot of health problems. Establishing User fees would do the same thing. The municipality also needs to send a message to both the province to regulate manufacturers from over packaging items. Or package items with recycled products. We also need to green our schools/places of employment. Introduce "litter less lunches" We could start at city hall. Council could introduce a garbage free month and encourage the residents to stop buying over packaged items. The city could introduce bi-weekly garbage pickups. We need to go up the pipe to find a solution not be reactive but proactive. LET'S REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF GARBAGE SO WE DON'T HAVE WORRY ABOUT WHETHER TO BURN IT OR BURY IT.

What about the smokestacks that have delivered rancid smells to my nose? Stelco? Dofasco? Others? It's not the little guys. Who pays for the silt accumulating on our houses?

As for cutting collection of larger items (seasonal)..Are we attempting to tell people who haven't the means to find a dump to throw it on the side of the road when no one is looking?"

De-amalgamate the city back to the original municipalities

The new green bin program has been frustrating - I use it but it is often not collected, resulting in maggots in summer. More info needed and better collection (I was told not all trucks can take the bins - so what is the point).

I think we need to look more broadly at "health" beyond green initiatives. What makes a healthy community is a mix of environment, economic, culture, etc....models like Chicago are very interesting.

Yes to Agriculture and no to sports fields. Why are they exempt and not my lawn? Also if you look in the summer the City does not keep the sports fields weed free or for that matter cut. I think you are probably on the leading edge here. The last thing we need are more bylaws and intrusions by the City and unequal enforcement of those bylaws.

There are many other methods of promoting reuse than canceling bulk good pickup. The current program makes it difficult for pickers to reuse goods before they are taken to landfill. More initiatives should be taken on HHW disposal, backyard composting, and reduction. I would like to see Hamilton ban grocery bags similar to how Australia has done (federally).

Bring back bulk pick up days rather than having to call in to schedule. Frustrating to recycle when the blue boxes are often left behind for one misplaced item. When this happens, I like most people probably through all recyclables in the garbage.

Agriculture and sports fields should not use pesticides either. Why use dangerous pesticides on the foods we consume and in the fields our growing children play in.

Hundreds die every year as a direct result of pollution yet people in my neighborhood idle their cars for an average of 1/2 hour every morning before they drive to work. We need an aggressive anti-idling campaign and much more in-your-face awareness campaigns. Maybe the threat of a stiff fine would wake these people up to the harm they're doing to our environment.

Sports fields are a cosmetic use, entirely different from agriculture. Lumping them together is grossly unfair.

There are other options including a much higher diversion rate than 65%, and federal and provincial action to require producers to take full responsibility for products that can't be diverted through recycling or composting.

Bulk pick-up used to be an excellent recycling opportunity

The green cart program is GREAT. Let's also start having a limit on garbage bags placed on the curb, and possibly some type of lottery system, where once a month a city worker picks an area of the city at random, and a house with garbage totaling a small white kitchen trash bag or less is placed in a draw, and 1 lucky family/ person wins \$500 or so. A \$6000 annual budget would help reduce a lot of waste.

A 65 percent reduction in waste is not going to be achieved from single households only. All businesses and apartments have to be involved too. And, most importantly, the city itself has to lead by example. Every city facility should recycle, from Ivor Wynne to City Hall; we should be able to easily find recycling containers. There are too many multiple households to impose bag limits. And there are too many ways for people to cheat by dumping their garbage on others' properties for the suggested plans to work.

I do not like the new bulk pick up. The old way, people knew when the bulk pick up was expected. I would often see folks driving around at night in trucks picking up scraps, therefore eliminating what the waste trucks took. Now, people cannot do this, as there is not "set" bulk day.

Are there ways to encourage agricultural lands and sporting fields to not use pesticides?

Green cart is a joke, having to pay for bags as liners, and washing it out as recommended when we have to pay for water (which is increasing all the time) is unfair.

The whole city in general is looking like a dump in the summer months with overgrown weeds. The parks are terrible, and people with weed/grass allergies cannot even go outside as the air has too many allergens."

Anti-idling bylaw would be impossible to actually police. Media coverage of the effects of greenhouse gases and education would be a better way to go. Most people realize the harm excessive idling causes and keep it to a minimum. There is always going to be ignorant people that don't obey the by-laws and those are the people that always seem to beat the system.

IF the city recycles properly they can make money off garbage, i.e. bulk appliances are made of steel, and scrap steel is valuable. Our City was built on steel, tell you anything.

I have mixed opinion regarding pesticides. I have severe allergies to many weeds. With respect to garbage collection - make it as easy as possible for people to recycle and use their green bin. Separating and sorting really does not encourage people to recycle - neither does getting tags on your bin or just not having the bin collected.

I am personally motivated to protect the environment for moral reasons but I strongly believe in a use-pay system. How about people having to pay for any waste created? Say we are given 52 tags a year and we need to pay \$2 a tag for additional bags. We can't look at "thermal" means, i.e. gasification or incineration as a solution to waste. People need to live with their waste, not produce huge amounts because they know it will go up in smoke!

I support the use of pesticides on agricultural lands, but not sports fields. Athletes can play on grass with weeds just as easily as grass.

The noise control enforcement should extend to people with loud vehicles -- be it exhaust OR stereo systems!

We need more programs to help citizens improve their city should be offered (tree planting, rain barrels)

Good work in the waste diversion area in the last few years. We need to ensure better recycling and diversion in city-owned facilities.

I support stricter garbage limits, and possibly the imposition of fines/user fees in coming years. Also need to work on retail sector, and ensure all city facilities set a good example with maximum recycling/green bin use.

The key to getting support is selling the people. I am sick of rules and pass another law or bylaw. Then we go back to enforcement. We need PEOPLE to participate willingly. I would rather one guy picking up garbage than someone driving around looking for a litter bug. So pollute the air driving around, put them on bikes. Also the collectors shouldn't be as picky as it discourages compliance. I have 4 blue boxes and a giant green bin and use them. Get the summer students out humping it and work hard on the beach and trails. They spend a lot of time with the senior mentors who are not renowned for their enthusiasm. We need more connecting bike lanes say on Cannon East to West. More bike racks with better security.

Pesticides - I would exempt agriculture but wouldn't exempt sports fields. I support the elimination of cosmetic pesticides but that doesn't mean I agree with a by-law to do so.

By-laws are only as good if they are truly enforced. I cannot tell you how many times I have witnessed municipal vehicles idling for no valid reason. What is the point of having such a by-law if it is not strictly enforced? There is no valid reason for letting a vehicle idle either public or private. Does it take much effort to turn the engine off? I don't think so!

I am truly in favor of modified pesticide applications to our parks and open areas on a limited basis. Our parks and open areas, especially parks under the classification of "D" receive no curative care what-so-ever. These areas have been completely taken over by weeds with very little if any healthy turf grass. Not only do the weeds pose a problem for those who suffer from

City Council has established a track record that no matter how they research and implement bylaws they have seen limited successes. i.e. green carts, good idea until the warm weather, how about no garbage pick up if a blue box is not sitting out front with the garbage? Bulk pick ups should be recycled, wood steel etc. Electronics should have some of the 3R's, batteries light bulbs etc.

Great idea with the green bins!!!

I don't think agricultural lands need cosmetic pesticides. Agricultural pesticides would be exempted. And a suggestion for reducing landfill waste is to follow the lead of some municipalities in Ontario (such as Stratford) and to sell tags for bags. A strip of 5 tags is only about \$5 but no garbage bags are collected without tags. Having people pay a small fee will encourage them to find ways to reduce their amount of garbage.

Charging a user fee for bulk collection won't work in the core/north end -- too many people who won't be able to pay, which means that there will be bulk goods piling up on street-sides, and being dumped at places like New Horizons (who are already suffering under the illegal dumping practices of large numbers of idiots who can't be bothered to arrange bulk pickup as it is)

We should funnel bulk goods to reuse markets... eventually some of it will by necessity find its way to landfill, but if it can be reused, we should be forced to find a place to send it rather than simply call to city and arrange for it transport to the landfill site.

As for anti-idling by-law...how will this be enforced? It seems a silly notion especially when we sit waiting for red lights and trains...

A healthy environment should be a priority for Hamilton.

A Councillor said they should ban drive through windows at stores. This would be a big mistake. For people with children who want to get a coffee or fast food it is very convenient because they don't have to unload the vehicle to make a purchase that with the window takes on average two to three minutes.

These questions do not provide the opportunity to answer. I support any initiative that reduces taxes by reducing costs. You do not offer that type of answer

If there was a drop off centre to take your recyclables would help, at the grocery store - places to put your cans, bottles, etc. Then you don't have to keep all recyclables until garbage day.

Rather than eliminating pesticides, I support enthusiastic use of alternative measures. I also support an anti- goose program to reduce the goose poop!

Engineer traffic so we don't waste so much time idling at unnecessary stoppages. Only go ahead with energy from waste incineration if it is clear that the project is not harming the environment in other ways. Make recycling more user-friendly - less complex in separation, more collection points. Make green bins mandatory in apartments - develop localized projects for using compost.

I would support exempting agriculture Do our sports fields really need to look nice?

City could look into providing can collection centres or machines which redeem cans for cash, such as deposits on beer bottles. (There are such programs in place in many U.S. States)

City should search out firms interested in scrap value or resale value of bulk goods. In many instances, these items are in good working order and should be donated to those less fortunate in our community, of which there are so many.

If the City wants to implement an anti-idling bylaw, then they should be the ones to set the example. Currently this is not being done and I see vehicles left idling on a daily basis, not just when temperatures are low or high either. In particular, the Waste department is the worst culprit, followed closely by Public Works trucks (including foreman's vehicles). You cannot possibly expect the public to buy into a program such as this unless you are willing to have your own employees participate. This needs to be enforced from the supervisory level and up.

Green cart is a farce. Summertime, it's a disaster for those who do not have a cool place to store it so it doesn't get bugs in it. One bag limited per family is not enough, may leave at 2-3. As far as garbage, companies like CP Rail that have tracks running through residential areas, should be required to have crews come and clean up by the tracks. Every fall and spring I pick up 4-5 garbage bags off tracks across from house. They should also put up a proper fence considering there are more kids in neighbor living across from it. Maintenance was never enforced with them.

EXPAND TO ASSIST ALL SMALL BUSINESSES, I AM IN A LOCATION, EVEN THOUGH DOWNTOWN AREA, BUT NOT FAR ENOUGH TO BENEFIT FROM THESE PROGRAMS.

The city should partner with an organization that recycles bulk items picked up in the trash. They can be donated to charity, or perhaps picked up on bulk days by the charity itself.

The city talks about reducing expenses and helping the environment, then the offices should be required to turn off unnecessary lights and signage at night, and reduce the amount of garbage they generate without recycling.

Require the trash removal people to be more careful with blue boxes, since tossing them around only breaks them, or causes them to go missing from homes, reducing the likelihood that people will bother to get a new bin and continue to recycle.

There are too many double questions needing two different answers in this survey. This survey is poorly designed and written. Just like the cities web site. Must be the worst web site out there!

In the question sports and farm lands requiring the use of pesticides, I would be more inclined to support the use of them in farm lands and eliminate them from sports fields.

I do not want to see us exporting our garbage to another community - it's our problem and should be ours to fix.

Fines and user fees are okay with me, however there are plenty of families which cannot afford this and somehow this must be taken into consideration for bulk pick up etc.

It is imperative that Hamilton develop itself in a manner that respects the resources available and those consumed. To this end, sprawl should be stopped and transit, bike and pedestrian right-of-ways given huge priority; serious consideration should be given to using building codes and permit fees to encourage "green" construction and retrofits (perhaps measured through something like the LEED system), and; efforts to promote commercial clusters to let people shop in their neighborhoods (without needing to drive to far-flung "power" centres or malls) instituted (I've heard it said that municipal tax rates make it more financially viable to board up a store and simply rent the apartments.

Upgrade our waste water treatment plants. A good rain and raw sewage still goes into the harbour. We put money into developing pier four and the waterfront, but you can't touch the water. I think it would go a long way to change the image that people have about this city if people could actually swim in the harbour.

On Garbage day a total of 6 garbage trucks pass my front door. 1 Truck for the Green Bin, 1 for Recycle, 1 for garbage - pass going up the street and then down the street. How good is this for the environment?

Making it difficult or costly to have your garbage collected causes more of it to be dumped in the countryside – if people put out recycling and the green bins they should be able to put out more garbage – large households are penalized with the way it is now. (I would like to see Hamilton incinerate some of its garbage, with the new technology incinerators are a lot cleaner than most people think they are.

Private homeowners' seem to be doing their part in the recycling and reducing plan. The renters in the houses and three/four story apartment buildings don't seem to be doing their part. Is there a way to enforce compliance of these multi-residential buildings and apartments?

Regarding garbage and recycling it is hard to enforce the garbage disposal of illegal rentals and such....it will be interesting once there is a reduced amount of garbage pickup from the illegal houses ...e.g. duplexes and triplexes ...oh that is right there is no illegal rentals...they are all legitimate.

Each city needs to handle their own garbage. Why should our waste become someone else's problem? The bulk good rather than a user fee I would rather see the city work in partnership with reuse centres, or non profit agencies to redirect these items from landfill. Either use the user fee to promote that our provide alternatives to people who live in Hamilton.

Agricultural fields yes, sports fields no. No pesticides should be sprayed on any soccer field or baseball field. They shouldn't be exempted those are the places where kids spend a lot of time What's the point of having a pesticide ban for the protection of children when we spray the places where they spend several hours a week playing?

I do support an anti idling by-law, it would cost a small amount of money but it would be very effective.

An incinerator in Hamilton? What's the point? All the flammable material we produce is already diverted to recycling or Green boxes, all Hamilton will have to burn is plastics and other metals, which don't burn easily

Encourage recycling - get the diversion rate to the 65% level before looking at incineration or other disposal methods. No one will take diversion seriously if there are other options available. My garbage rates have declined significantly (although it took months to get a green cart) - it has been a success. I see the problem of eliminating the bulk pick ups though - bulk goods are left by the side of the road or alleys. It has worsened and still costs the City in disposing these items. Encourage energy efficiency in City buildings and vehicles. Hamilton needs to show our ability to meet the global warming crisis through thoughtful policy, not campaigns that lecture people.

Anti-Idling must be enforced. Stop building, and encourage the removal of drive-throughs. The anti-idling bylaw is great! Please pursue it, even if some people don't like it (because they obviously do it) but I use the bus and always see many cars running in parking lots or the sides of streets needlessly. So maybe this will make people stop being lazy, and prompt them to turn the car off -especially in the summer when it's hard to breathe outside because of the smog.

I believe a small user fee for large item pick up may encourage people to donate or sell who would otherwise trash. I do not believe the user fee should be prohibitive to those on limited income or assistance in our community.

I love the idea of the green cart... however, I hate having yet another container in my kitchen and the weather stops me from going outside frequently enough to not need the bin in my kitchen. Can we not have something designed with 3 bins... garbage, recycling, green bin? Each bin should have its own cover with a brief outline of what materials belong in that container. I'm finding some people (particularly older people) are confused...

As it stands, we only have one garbage bag every two weeks. We recycle absolutely everything we can. There should be a stronger initiative to encourage the recycling of 'bulk' items. Free pick up on designated days with the contents going to a warehouse for sorting and access to the public for their use. Furniture left outside in the elements is ruined and the only option is a landfill. But furniture picked up in a timely manner can be refurbished and cleaned and given to someone who can use it. The repair of these items can provide jobs and it's a win-win situation.

We have a potential disaster awaiting us with Asian Beetles attacking trees and things (Remember the Ladybugs that destroyed the Wine a couple of years ago?) Don't handcuff ourselves with BY\_LAWS.

Resident education on alternatives to cosmetic pesticides.

I see more smokers in Hamilton then anywhere else I've been. Perhaps an anti-smoking campaign using signage, billboards?

Getting rid of more than a few parking lots downtown and filling them in with parkettes, with trees and plants - trees, trees everywhere.

Not to long ago The Hamilton Spectator ran a series of articles that tested citizen reaction to the question-"what one thing can be done to improve the environment? Of those who responded the majority responded-plant a tree.

I would remind the mayor and council of the view of Hamilton the world had during the world bike riding championship. In case you have forgotten the city looked stunning. I have yet to see some mention of a tree planting project and can only urge that it be included somewhere in the budget. If possible we could have many people involved in a reforestation project of Hamilton-we might even attempt to restore some Carolinian trees

Maintenance agreements with recycling companies for receptacles within the city need to be reviewed and upheld so that more people will use the recycling containers which are often dirty or overflowing.

Instead of wasting money on so called 'green fleets' you as the government have the power to force 'the big three' or big 6 or big 7 these days to build a more efficient 4 cylinder diesel cars as it is now I am looking at small Chrysler Jeep where they charge you \$2700 more for ordering the diesel engine which gets better mileage, more efficient. And also at last summer heat wave I measured the temperature in Jackson square one day where it was 26.5C and I went across the road to the new government building on Bay street where the temperature in that huge lobby was 21.5 C So what do you want me to tell you that you already do not know?

The green waste program must also be extended to business. The city has not given business an opportunity to participate in this.



The city of Hamilton should not only use bio-diesel for all public transit but also provide tax breaks to environmentally friendly alternative fuels. Bio-diesel stations are difficult to find and often are out of the way. Recycling of bulk goods and providing alternatives to pick-up. Further conservation of green spaces and parks.

Weeds are not a problem--just cut them down

I would support the City's collection of bulk goods in partnership with a third-party to facilitate their reuse rather than sending them directly to landfill site. This should be a free service for all taxpayers.

Pesticides - It would be helpful to have environmentally friendly alternatives readily available and limit/reduce availability of the chemical products.

The 65% diversion rate is a large number to try and achieve. The Recycling Program is currently working well, HOWEVER the city NEEDS to find a way to implement Recycling Programs within local office places / businesses.

The green bin program is great for houses. However there is currently NO OPTION for Condo / Apartment Buildings to join in on this wonderful project. I, being in a Condo, shake my head every time I throw a bag down my garbage shoot as it's usually 1/4 - 1/2 full of compost material.

**PLEASE IMPLEMENT A GREEN BIN PROGRAM FOR BUILDINGS!**

I have a son with a spontaneous genetic endocrine disorder. While the cause of the condition cannot be determined, researchers suggest that the most likely cause is pesticide. We have never used cosmetic pesticides. The reality is that use by others is a form of "second-hand" pesticide consumption.

The hybrid vehicle fleet seems a bit gimmicky, and my sense is that a greater overall benefit would be derived from spending the same money on public transit, perhaps to reduce fares and increase rider ship.

Increase safety of transit at night (request stop option, have drivers actually call police /kick people off when people are being harassed or threatened, frequent police presence at terminals, etc)

Stop transport trucks from using city streets as route. Years ago they were never allowed, what changed. Cut down the lanes on Main St. and King St. and make more visible crosswalks. Cars should be banned from some areas of the core to allow cleaner air for those pedestrians. Stop cutting down trees and plant more for the air of our city centre. Organic gardens for food should be planted in the traffic islands with herb and plants for health, not just pretty flowers. We need to feed the homeless and educate people about organic herb and medicinal natural plants. Make areas people friendly start roof top gardens and alternative ways to grow vegetables, like up the side of walls of empty buildings. Cap smoke stacks, and go carbon clean.

To encourage recycling the city should reduce garbage pick up to bi-weekly. As well, apartment buildings and restaurants need to be doing their part. There are not currently options for rental residents to recycle; everything is put in the trash.

Fewer highways and encourage the alternatives.

Go for substance - health and happiness - not for cosmetics and comfort.

Green is the way to go and that should be crystal clear in the current political environment.

Hamilton has the potential to totally reverse the tired cliché about it being a polluted city...we have the expertise, the willingness and the potential to totally succeed in this area....look at the success already.

The biggest challenge is convincing people to want to recycle, compost, reuse, etc. especially in Apartment buildings where many enforcement is difficult, a strategy needs to be developed to make composting etc. easy, clean, and simple so that it will be done.

City of Hamilton can save significant money and energy by adopting a healthy heating/air conditioning strategy. On cool days/months heating can be kept to minimum levels while staff can be encouraged to wear pants, sweaters, suit jackets and the like. Keeping in mind of course the minimum temperature of 20C bylaw in Hamilton. In warm weather the temperature indoors can be cooled to only 25C and staff wears shorts - within appropriate business attire.

Probably the single most effective step the City could take to protect the environment (and improve public health) would be to ensure that public transit is at least as cheap and convenient as driving. The City should spend at least as much on public transit, walking and cycling as it does on road construction and maintenance.

Number one issue - economic development. A green POV is important, but is not the 1ary issue. Bring jobs and competitiveness to the city. Please

I grew up in West Flamborough. I saw the new highway building on HWY#6 North, I could see the trees cut down and cleared :( I saw a lone giant birds nest on the edge of the forest. Gigantic holes (quarries) in the earth, hidden behind nicely manicured lawns in between the HWY#5 & 4th Conc. in Flamborough? When I was a teenager I asked someone what they will do when they are done digging? They told me line the bottom with a plastic cover and fill it with garbage. What does the government think of that? I feel, see & smell the difference the water, air from Hamilton which is about 1/2hr drive away. Resident tax breaks on their paychecks if you walk to work? Bonuses to keep our hydro low? Recycle bins are overflowing here every week! PUNISH the polluters!

Development of wind turbine technology throughout Hamilton would go a long way into creating a greener image for the city. I am aware of the Cleanfield Energy Corporation pilot program and applaud city staff for its development. Additionally, I believe construction of a wind turbine on the mountain brow to be seen by all, similar to Toronto, would be instrumental in wind turbine awareness and acceptance in the area. I'm so happy to hear that City Hall is working for a better environment and I'm thrilled with the green bin!

For the amount of apartment buildings in Hamilton, there should be stricter enforcement on recycling and the green boxes. Apartment dwellers do not get the same green boxes that households do, and it makes it inconvenient to use. Maybe some sort of plan specifically for apartments to recycle and use the green boxes could be put in place?

Stop city buses from idling, particularly at the top of Dundurn, where the bus drivers sit for 10 - 15 minutes on every run, with the bus running. This is right beside the homes and the Bruce Trail. I am sure city buses do the same in other parts of the city. Also, make more bike paths, and eliminate 1 way "freeways" through the downtown core. Slow down traffic, encourage people to take buses, walk, rollerblade, cycle. Do not synchronize the lights. Right now driving is a very convenient option, and there is no incentive for other healthier choices. This contributes to air pollution, obesity, and affects shopping/economic prosperity in the downtown.

I would support exempting lands used in agriculture in regards to eliminating the use of cosmetic pesticides, however not on sports fields.

Conditional on moving towards elimination as alternatives can be implemented.

Idling does not make sense: pollutes, wastes, costs.

Definitely the non-idling bylaw would help but if you increase public transportation it would encourage people to leave their cars at home!

It's really disconcerting when I spend the whole week separating my food waste only to see the garbage man throw both of them into the same truck. It has happened enough times to make me cynical.

I support leading by example but I'm not convinced anybody did their homework on hybrid vehicles. These vehicles cost a lot more (to buy and maintain) and they currently aren't living up to claims for better gas mileage - even the question above suggests the City thinks its using less gas. Is there a commitment to monitor this decision to go green? To weigh the costs to taxpayer compared to the perceived benefit?

Idling and pesticide by-laws are no-brainers. Toronto is well ahead of us here. But we also need to hire a couple more bylaw officers so that these by-laws, along with existing property standards, are properly enforced.

Hamilton should invest heavily in renewable energy production, including methane from waste; but with the two conditions that 1) \*all\* the waste be transported to the incinerator/generator by ship and/or rail, not by truck; and 2) that the incinerator is a net air cleaner (i.e. its emissions are cleaner than the ambient air more than half the time).

Provide multi-residential properties with green bins. The residents are begging for them!! It would be amazing to see restaurants and cafeterias participating too, but that's a more complicated issue I'm sure.

Transit has got to remain and grow as a priority. Bike lanes are absolutely necessary to encourage emission-free transport and to ensure the safety of our cyclists. It's a shame we have to wait for bike lanes when we seem to waste no time installing new freeways.

Regarding anti-idling, consider a ban on the sale/install of Remote Starters. These are advertised in flyers every week during winter. All they do is promote idling under the guise of 'warming' your car up. They allow you to start your vehicle from inside a building and have it run for 10-15 minutes making it warm before you get in. An alternative would be an engine block heater coupled with a heavy duty appliance timer set to turn on a few hours before you are ready to go for the day.

Regarding waste diversion, 30% of my family's ""GARBAGE"" is diapers. Start diaper composting. This was part of the green bin pilot but not the full program. With the number of families using diapers this could have a big impact on diversion across the city.

Changing the way Hamilton is perceived will take time. I suggesting starting the "green" initiatives with a big splash....do something unique. Make headlines. Make people say "yeah, Hamilton is a steel town, but wait...they do have that crazy \_\_\_\_\_ initiative going on, maybe they're no so bad.

All of these initiatives are necessary and overdue. Some will even save the city money!! These initiatives can also help fight Hamilton's negative environmental reputation. Can't put enough emphasis on this one.

Hamilton is not a leader in clean/green initiatives. We lag. Let's lead.

Hybrid SUVs and 6 cylinders don't count. Don't buy these and tell me you're 'going green'. Your employees just want to drive fancier cars. They get the same mileage as 4 cylinder gas engines. Buy something that gets at least double the gas mileage of the vehicle it replaces.

The operative word in question 8 is 'cosmetic'. I don't want farmers using pesticides to get a bowling green lawn, either. Actual business use (i.e. as necessary on crops) could be exempt.

Explore options for reusing bulk goods. Bulk waste should still be collected but quality items should be kept and sold-second hand-- retro quickly becomes vintage. The city could make money operating a second-hand furniture shop. The use of cosmetic pesticides is a threat to both the environment and human health which is unnecessary and should be eliminated given the numerous other options which exist.

As childish as it may sound, I think that instead of using fines alone to motivate families to recycle and compost, offenders should also have to sit through some sort of mandatory session on how much they are contributing to pollution. Many people are quicker to give up their money than their time.

The best thing the city could do for the environment would be to aggressively invest in transit, and other strategies for shifting travel modes away from private automobile use. The second best thing the city could do would be to monitor the emissions (air and water) of each polluter in the industrial north-end, and pursue partnerships or levy fines to substantially reduce their impact. It's hard to get excited about anti-idling when the snow near my work is covered in a black film.

The research I've done has provided me with enough evidence to convince me that there is a clear correlation between chemical pesticide use and illness. Some argue that it is impossible to prove that chemical pesticides are the cause of a particular illness in a particular individual, and they therefore feel justified in continuing to use them. I strongly believe that any potential threat to the health of the population should be eliminated when possible. Our children and pets are the most vulnerable to this danger. Organizations which support a pesticide ban are the Ontario College of Family Physicians, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Canadian Cancer Society, and many others. We need to value our children more than our lawns. Please continue with a greener strategy such as the green-box recycling program. Also look into renewable sources of energy.

The questions on waste diversion are difficult for me to answer as a downtown resident not covered by municipal waste management - I do not have the green box option available to me, even though I would like it.

Hamilton needs bylaws protecting the environment, we are lagging behind other less progressive towns in such bylaws. We need an idling bylaw and a pesticide bylaw now.

Again, these are seriously charged questions with an obvious agenda. I generally agree with the agenda, but c'mon...

I believe it must become mandatory for residents to divert waste from the landfill. We should have fines for households putting out more than 1 bag of garbage per week.

Support waste's initiatives. Put limit on number of garbage bags as they do in area where I live - it doesn't make a difference.

I have been very impressed with the City's efforts to reduce waste, and to more efficiently process waste. This is EVERYONE'S responsibility however, and it's not enough for people to expect the city will do everything for them. I think it's important for the City to engage and educate the public on this responsibility. So much of the solution to the larger environmental issues we're now forced to tackle relies on cooperation, and individual responsibility.

I think what this department is doing so far is excellent- and it takes a lot for me to say that about a City Department. I would hope to see more information campaigns similar to the booklet that accompanied the Green Cart- that was brilliant, and exactly the kind of creative ways we - more bike lanes.

Restrict urban sprawl.

Where are the questions relating to industrial / corporate polluters?

I do not accept the idea that other solutions are impossible in agriculture and sporting fields. I would support an extended deadline though.

Please find a healthier way to control weeds, or incorporate the weeds into the landscape...plant more trees contact an agricultural historian to find out how weed control was managed in the past. Hire a couple of Mac students to maintain a sports field, using the old methods. Find out how well it goes...get it written up in the Spec... Have a better NO litter ad...something like...love the city like you love yourself. Please don't litter...and make sure the litter is picked up. Have a mobile truck that comes into areas on certain days of the month to pick up paint cans and other toxic waste. Some people don't have the means available to get the transfer stations. I bet a lot of things end up in the garbage.

As far as recycling... look to the east, New Brunswick has a deposit structure that on recyclables you pay a dime and get a nickel back. And on re-usable it's a dime in and out.

People will throw out recycling if there is not actual value aside from penalty or good feelings.

As a plus, the value of the can now makes it sought after. More people will collect them, and they'll be a built in incentive to pick them up from our littered city streets.

HEFTY FINES for those that don't comply!

Although I totally agree with an anti-idling bylaw I can't see where such a bylaw is very enforceable.

Please make bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly strategies, and more accessible, convenient public transit options. Clean up the factories--they make Burlington Street look really dirty. Encourage renovation and adaptive re-use of the downtown building fabric. Choose developers who design simple, elegant, affordable, and green housing. Thanks!

The big pickup days were preceded by a flock of people scanning the discarded stuff to refurbish. Now, with the change in process, much more is making it to the landfill (and if your numbers say "no, there's less", then you can be sure that a lot's making it into impromptu dumps or backyards). We need some sort of organized swap or garage sale or something, so people can get rid of their stuff without throwing it into the city dumps.

Negative health impacts of modern incinerators should be made public, rather than buried in the 'environmentally friendly' discourse that surrounds their use.

A total ban on pesticides is silly - sometimes they're necessary, but should be only used as a last resort.

Get green bin processing facilities that support plastic bags. Not being able to use plastic bags is a HUGE barrier to green bin usage.

Energy from Waste, (thermal treatment of waste with energy & metal recovery) is being considered as a way to handle left-over waste after diversion which could help extend the life of the Glanbrook Landfill Site." I find this to be a poorly worded question which I'm sure many citizens don't quite understand what is being done with this waste.

Other than goodwill, I am not aware of other options for the reuse of bulk goods. It would be nice to have them advertised if others think that garbage disposal is the only answer. The options for this question are not very clear.

If these pesticides are harmful to our health, why would it be safe to spray onto our food?

I hope more research is going into the social marketing of our city.

I loved the no more new drive-through idea.

We should have green bin in all schools, work places and restaurants.

I think that Hamilton is doing a great job with recycling/composting and hope that they continue on this path. There is always room for improvement. With regards to bulk goods maybe the city should try to make it easier for people to drop off goods or have them picked up, that can be reused or provide information on programs that need the bulk goods. I can imagine that electronic goods (computers, music players etc) will be a huge issue if it is not already. The same would be true for household items.

Last week at McMaster I witnessed a school bus idling for 40 minutes!! Need to have education and enforcement of idling rules that apply to buses, taxis and delivery vehicles.

Green fleet is nice but it's not enough. Bio diesel is not eco-friendly, puts pressure on agriculture, has low net energy and is bad for air quality. Need to expand electric tethered vehicles.

City should not collect bulk goods but rather educate on options like reducing what you buy, donating to charities like goodwill, value village, Salvation Army etc., re-use centres, selling privately through classifieds, or paying at the dump.

Businesses should be fined for waste that blows from dumpsters into public areas like parks and the rail trail (e.g. University Plaza in Dundas)"

I would not support an idling by-law because there are not enough officers to enforce the by-laws we currently have. I would support and education program.

I am proud that the city has the largest green fleet. Are they automatic yet, or have the drivers been taught standard transmission?"

Pesticide and idling by-laws should be a priority

There should be much stricter limits on the amount of waste a household can produce - there should be a garbage fee for those who exceed the limit. There is no reason any household should be producing more than 1 can/trash bag per week with the recycling resources already available in our city (our family of 4 takes over a month to fill a standard trash can)

Establishing neighborhood reuse centers would allow residents to bring in goods they no longer want but are still serviceable so that others can make use of them

Promoting development that allows for safe and pleasant walking/cycling routes and helping established areas become more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.

Weekly pick up of the green cart particularly in the summer/hot months.

There are other collection options for bulk goods rather than direct to landfill. Check region of Waterloo. If you eliminate or charge, they will be illegally dumped.

Why not have a bulk pickup which goes to recycle centers instead of landfill, like in Germany?  
The city should also go on a road diet, the amount of land within the right-of-way dedicated predominately to personal vehicles should be reduced freeing up more of the right-of-way for dedicated bikeways, wider sidewalks, street furniture, and possible dedicated transit ways.

Unfortunately the current waste management system does not account for people that have and use compost or manicure their gardens throughout the year. I typically only use my green cart for items that I do not want in my compost or when my compost is full.

The city needs to be clearer about which items it recycles and which ones it does not. For example, One week I can put out plastic garden pots and they are collected, while the next they are not. Also the city needs to be clearer about what items can go in the same blue box. It seems to me that the recycling all goes in the same truck, but if you mix plastic and glass with paper in the same blue box they will not collect it.

Anti-idling law needs to be enforced - hasn't been successful in other jurisdictions because of lack of awareness and enforcement

Obviously agricultural lands should have different rules for pesticides (although I strongly support a mover to organics/integrated pest management in agriculture); I do NOT support the use of pesticides on playing fields - this is where our children play!

Incineration is counter to the goals of reducing and reusing, so not an ideal option; would be better to work harder to reduce the amount of waste being generated!"

A small but quite irritating matter: green boxes should NOT require brown bagging and the expectation of meticulous sorting for blue boxes is also hampering greater success for this program - make it easy for people and more will participate.

Please, a few more bulk item pick ups though the year!

Please do the right thing for the environment. We need more trees. We need better public transportation. We need to eliminate pesticides on private property and in city parks.

While I don't support incinerating garbage no matter how clean the technology I do believe that the answer is to reduce our output of garbage. Even though I believe paying for being over the limit is the best option, I also would like to see fines imposed on those not diverting waste to the green bin. This could be used as a way to ensure that people aren't just paying to not follow the rules. The bulk program takes furniture and appliances that could be reused or refurbished and adds them to our landfills this has to stop! As for pesticides I feel that risking human and animal health for cosmetic purposes is ridiculous. We need to eliminate them right across the city with no exemptions.

Support cycling/walking/riding buses! Build path across Churchill Park; connect Mac to downtown by bike. Bike racks on buses! Continue good job on green boxes. Investigate geothermal heating/cooling for all new municipal projects. Rainwater collection: support rain barrels to reduce runoff. Continue harbor cleanup. Hamilton needs to market sailing, cycling, swimming, beach life. I support removal of cormorants/geese etc if it allows us to clean up/swim at local beaches.

Is bio-diesel actually used in city vehicles currently? If so, where is it from? Is it available in Hamilton? Can I buy it locally for my VW Golf TDI?

One of the items in the mayor's election platform was topiary billboards along the Linc. Please don't do it! The current natural state of the byways is not only more environmentally friendly, but it is far more aesthetically pleasing, and as naturalized landscapes are becoming more fashionable, it is a far more 'cutting edge' look than tired, tortured little boxwood billboards. Please Mayor Fred! Leave the Linc alone!

Not using something to rid parks and centre islands of weeds is just nonsense. The parks land up a field of dandelions which many people are allergic to so that creates a health hazard not to mention it looks horrible. If we are trying to attract more people to the City then it should look presentable and it usually doesn't. The park at the top of my street looks horrible every year all summer loaded with weeds of all shapes and sizes which only seem to vanish once every 2 or 3 weeks when the park gets a half hearted cut. If the City doesn't wish to use them don't penalize



the rest of us, I use them on my lawn for spot treatments and don't want my Rights impacted by this freedom of mine being taken away. It's my property.

Why not continue to collect and then sell or recycle the bulk goods.

There was a mention of user fees for bulk pick-up. I personally agree with a user fee, the only potential problem I see, is that people will start dumping their bulk items everywhere instead of paying the fee, and then we will have to send city staff to pick up these items, and that will cost more than the user fees.

FORCE BUSINESSES ONTO THE WASTE DIVERSION PROGRAM. I KNOW THAT THE FACTORY I WORK AT, FOOD WASTE FROM 100+ LUNCHES A DAY GO TO THE DUMP. FURTHERMORE THERE IS NO MANDATORY RE-CYCLING OF OUR POP CANS OR WATER BOTTLES. ALTHOUGH WE DO RECYCLE MOST OF OUR CARDBOARD. BUT MORE COULD BE DONE IF COMPANIES WERE MORE INVOLVED.

The bulk goods collection situation really gets up my nose. Specifically, the scheduling of bulk pick up. It's a joke and needs reform. I'll pay the freaking fee...just don't tell me when I can dispose of the stuff. I shouldn't have to plan my renovations around the city's half-baked collection schedule.

If you impose a restriction on pesticide use (which is a good idea), be VERY particular about what companies and facilities can use pesticides.

BRAVO FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE! HAVE YOU SUPPLIED THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRIES WITH THE BLUE BOX AND GREEN BOXES? YOU NEED TO LOOK AT YOUR DEVELOPMENTS. THEY HAVE CREATED A BIG ISSUE WITH AMOUNTS OF TRAFFIC IN NEIGHBOURHOODS. I AM A FORMER GARTH STREET RESIDENT....YOU NEED A SEPERATE ROAD THAT TAKES MCMASTER PEOPLE DIRECTLY TO THE UNIVERSITY, FROM THE WEST MOUNTAIN--SAY THROUGH THE HYDRO TOWER FIELD, THROUGH THE CHEDOKE GOLF COURSE, CONNECT TO THE MAIN WEST/403 CUT-OFF AND BUILD ANOTHER MAIN WEST BRIDGE (LIKE BURLINGTON STREET) FOR THE EXCESS TRAFFIC. THIS COULD BE THE CHEDOKE HILL VALLEY EXPRESSWAY.

My family of 6 is allowed only the same garbage as single person but our modest home is taxed at an extraordinary rate. We are getting screwed.

Eliminating the use of cosmetic pesticides is a joke. There is virtually no enforcement for the by-laws we already have.

The problem with an anti-idling bylaw is the weather in Hamilton. At this time of year, you cannot help but run your vehicle to warm it up unless you have a heated garage.

The green bins were the motivation for my family to divert waste. It diapers were included in the green bins (like Thorold and parts of the GTA); the majority of our waste would be diverted.

The City of Hamilton should provide stiff fines for violations against environment protection laws. Anti-idling and other new by-laws are designed to prevent pollution and therefore we are all affected if these laws are not followed. In addition, council should embrace not only partial but have a complete commitment to new technology designed to decrease green house gases. In addition, a new police task force should monitor and review practices followed by industries

specially the ones adjacent to the harbour front. It is my belief that these locations are the future of our city once these industries fail to exist. Moreover, additional CSO tanks need to be constructed to prevent over-flowing sewage spills to end up into the bay.

I agree with limiting the use of pesticides, but on private property that's not really feasible. There is no way of knowing what people are putting on their grass. There should be more leaf/yard waste in the Spring and Fall when people are doing yard clean-ups.

I have bulk collection in the past as well as the U. Ottawa transfer station. Pick-up is great for people that do not have access to a vehicle, but putting a user fee on the service and letting people know they can call donation services may save some things from going to the landfill. At the transfer station I have to pay, so why shouldn't I have to pay when the city is coming to my house to get it? Making it too high could just result in people dumping things though.

There are other methods than chemical pesticides that are environmentally friendly.

A lot of street lights stay on all day. Although it might be more expensive to repairs them the city would be telling the public to do as I do not do as I say.

Sell any of the metal bulk collected and place more recycling centres throughout the city and let people bring their stuff to them. If we can then sell it, great - train people currently unemployed in entry level waste management. Better to pay them and give them some pride. Explore ways to "mine" old landfill sites. We can lead (and get funding hopefully from the feds) and attract a whole new group of waste management businesses. Increase bike lanes and stairs for walking. Promote health groups (walkers, hikers, birdwatchers etc) on city site. Plant bird friendly feeding bushes on city land- bird watching is a fast growing sport and we are in an ideal spot-Partner with naturalist groups. Replant forests and grasslands in old fields.

I would like to see the city make 'green' initiatives its priority, with the goal of making Hamilton a leader in this area. Negative PR for the City includes pollution from industry (Stelco, Dofasco)-prioritizing 'green' initiatives would enhance the city's reputation, attract those that support 'green' initiatives, and tie in nicely with the work being done at waterfront (including clean up of polluted water), tree and flower planting to beautify the community, the outdoor trail system and the 'heath-focus' of the city's world-class hospital facilities. The Innovation Park could be used to do research in support of this type of initiative.

I am not aware of what kind of pesticides are used but if it is dangerous to use on private property why would we use it on our fields where kids play or with our foods?

Now that you too think garbage is a concern. Let's make the blue box folks accountable for picking up their garbage once they themselves create a mess. I would also like to see a bylaw in place that makes property owners accept the compost and clothes lines as a way of helping out the energy needs and landfill sites. Some condo corporations frown on this and these are not allowed. We need help from the City to make this turn around. Also the waste in water is another issue. Everyone should be accountable to the water use. If you own your condo you need to have a meter. Currently this is not the case. Therefore there is a large amount of water waste. The City needs to address this as well.

The agriculture industry and the people that operate the farms in question have been trained and have paid to learn about the use of these pesticides and should be allowed to continue.

Each property should have a tree on the front lawn. This should be based on minimum load size. Encourage this through a tax where no tree would result in an increase of say \$10 duly noted on the tax bill. The urban forest has been known to be a great way of cleaning the air.

Replace the bus fleet ASAP with hybrid buses...they have proven their worth in Seattle Washington and will pay for themselves. Increase the effectiveness of public transit. Encourage hybrid vehicles by no charging them for parking. The city of Cleveland did this with success. Have the city crew use electric or battery powered grounds keeping equipment as much as possible. Encourage the switch to net meeting. Allow alternative energy application in the city.

Some Cities in the USA are starting to REMOVE stop signs and traffic lights. Every one increases engines idling. My survey is full of 3/4 stop signs at intersections - they're not necessary.

No air conditioning in any City vehicle

Parking permits fees should be rated to 4, 6 or 8 cylinder engines

Gas operated lawn mowers/trimmers should not be allowed in the City limits without a permit  
If you eliminate the BULK service program or have a user fee - you will only find more of the junk dumped around the City.

Hot spots where dumping occurs - put up a surveillance camera, no dumping sign -- then prosecute the offenders (with a bit of news coverage)

The city should put the anti-idling bylaw on the books, but I'm not sure exactly how it would be enforced. This is no different from the watering bylaws that generally aren't enforced during the summer.

By creating a cleaner and greener Hamilton good things will happen. You'll see just give it a try.

In other countries they have colour coated bags for different kinds of waste. The waste is collected more often throughout the weeks allocating a different day for a different waste. Each building is allowed to throw out only a certain amount of waste or there is a fee.

Work with Hamilton hydro to generate electricity from wind on all city owned property. Generate electricity from waste through gases produced by bacteria not incineration. Clean up Randle reef. Work with Stelco to produce electricity from heat. Enforce environmental laws on businesses. Allow developers to pay no development fees if large buildings are constructed with green building materials and produce their heat and power. Make all new homes energy efficient.

I want a beautiful city for any grandchildren I have. I also think that more people need to be encouraged, whether by fines or charges, to use the existing recycling and compost services available. It doesn't take long to get in the habit and landfills are NOT going to be available forever. Alternatives to having fridges, etc. picked up by the City are not well advertised, at least to me.

I believe the city should set an example by providing recycling receptacles in parks and city areas.

I would support the exemption of agricultural lands if they are being used for Agriculture.

Bylaws are useless unless consistent enforcement is practiced. How does a Bylaw officer determine the amount of time a vehicle has been idling without standing by and watching? Do we set zero tolerance limits? Enforceability will likely make a bylaw ineffective. Education and messaging may well prove to be a more effective path to success. Liaison with the other municipalities should be engaged in to determine effectiveness. i.e. revenue streams, costs of enforcement vs. income from penalties, should be assessed. Energy from waste is a brilliant strategy. A pesticides bylaw would also likely prove ineffective for a number of reasons, although I'm running out of space.

Waterfront & escarpment brow development of proximate wind generated power. Development of geothermal heating and cooling using Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario. Use sewage flow from upper to lower city to recapture energy. Focus on research into energy efficiencies as another area of economic development and employ energy efficiencies to attract business and tourism.

Energy from waste solution being considered sounds much like the former Canadian Waste plant on Kenora Avenue which was shut down (causing loss of jobs and sending garbage to landfill) Money should be spent to retrofit the plant and upgrade to current environmental standards (assuming it was not turned into a Brownfield)

For the City to be leaders in promoting the environmental issues there needs to be additional community outreach by staff to educate the public on why and what there options are. The one thing we do is implement change and never go to the public and explain why.

I feel residents would support the decisions and changes if we do this. I.e. Bulk pick-up, what other options do residents have?"

Garbage --no matter what people will have garbage if city does pick up big items how will people get rid of them...side of the road? Must find a balance. We recycle lots, might be of benefit to go after companies and the overuse of packaging than always the taxpayers. Commercial building all need to have a recycle plan I work in a building of many office no recycle program terrible.

From Dec.15 to say March 30th could the green truck come every second week like the compose? Once the heat is gone so goes the smell and maggots - Might help with fuel costs

Close Stelco develop lake front businesses and residential development. Clean Randle reef. Stop companies from polluting air and water enforce environmental laws. No new polluting industries allowed ever we have enough already. Enforce laws to make companies adhere to regulations.

I support eliminating agricultural lands but sports fields with weeds are not an issue. Also, please continue to promote the infill of wild plants on the side of highways and the link. Creating natural not groomed environments is healthy and so much more attractive than the bland groomed look you get for example entering Toronto. Let's be a world class leader in this area of environmental protection.

Don't re-introduce the anti-idling by-law that is too costly and has no chance of being enforced....

The green vehicles are a huge waste of money. Reduce the number of vehicles and you'll have more impact. Making it difficult for people to dispose of waste only causes the lazy to dispose inappropriately. A huge non-recycler is city run facilities like arenas and rec centres. Practice what you preach.

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT HYBRID CARS/TRUCKS ARE NOT COST EFFECTIVE! YOU HAVE ENOUGH ISSUES IN THE FLEET DEPARTMENT, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FIGHTING LIKE KIDS. FIRE THE MANAGERS AND HIRE THE RIGHT PEOPLE WOULD HELP RUN THE DEPARTMENTS MORE SMOOTHLY. COME ON GUYS DON'T YOU GUYS WATCH THE NEWS OR DO YOU JUST BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE DIRT AND HOPE ALL THIS SHIT WILL GO AWAY?

The garbage limit needs to be modified according to family size.

Why do residents have to change when the city can not practice what it preaches? How many city offices do not have blue bins? Find me a single city office that uses a green cart in its lunch room? Why I embrace the need for change, and applaud the steps taken so far. It is very hypocritical of the city to not practice what it preaches. As a citizen why should I do at home what my government can not or will not do some place easier like city hall?

I agree with exempting agricultural lands, but see no reason why sports fields should also be exempted.

I think that spraying soccer fields with commercial pesticides is criminal. Our kids sit and picnic and play on that grass and it's disgusting to think that they are being exposed to such hazards. Don't allow DARTS buses and school buses/taxis to idle.

Environmental issues are EXTREMELY important to me and I want to see MORE being done to encourage/educate others to see the long term benefits. The Green Carts are an excellent start...As a mother of 2 small kids, I feel that DIAPERS should ALSO be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way...why is it that Toronto can accept diapers in the green bins but Hamilton cannot?? Our city should be up to speed on this. Furthermore, for those people who are too lazy to recycle, there should DEFINITELY be fines/penalties imposed otherwise they will continue to "not care" and slack off...Until it hits a person's pocket book or affects their life in some significant way, chances are they will take the path that's easiest...

Make recycling easier. Most people will do it unless doing so becomes too hard. When collectors get too picky, people just put items left behind in garbage. This does not help to reach 65% goal.

I do not support the anti-idling initiative. It is a waste of money as it is a moving infraction and would have to be done on a pro-active basis and would have to invest in hiring inspectors (whereas those inspectors could be used to enforce property standards). Should develop an energy cluster to attract energy companies to come here and create supply. Expand the Trees

Across Hamilton initiative which Councillors are involved with. Continue investing to clean up Hamilton Harbour.

THE GREEN CART PROGRAM FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE WAS A GOOD IDEA. THE CARTS YOU PROVIDED WERE NOT. ONCE INTO THE SUMMER IT WAS DISCUSSTING AND I REFUSE TO CONTINUE TO USE IT. I WILL NOT LIVE WITH THE STINK OR MAGOTS. EITHER FIND A BETTER CART OR A BETTER WAY.

You fail to consider industrial environmental issues. Please look into partnering with our steel producers for a co-generation plant to reduce emissions and smokestacks.

A lot of the questions here are not framed properly.

Yes, we should move on a pesticide ban, just as happened with smoking. I don't support use of pesticides on sport fields - these are places used by children who are the most vulnerable, and good management programs exist in other municipalities i.e. Waterloo. Agriculture is another matter - the whole agri-food system needs to be overhauled to wean farmers off chemical support, so for the time-being, agricultural lands should be exempt, but incentives should be put in place to help farmers reduce and eliminate voluntarily, though this is likely more a provincial matter.

Regarding recycling / green bin initiatives, the city should provide multiple bins to residents - if you only have one bin, you tend to fill it, and then everything else goes in the garbage. Bins should be provided to support sorted recycling, and they should be large enough to be useful.

I think the recycling program and composting program is great except for the size of the containers. I would like a green box that is about 1/2 the size. Also I don't mind purchasing the bio-degradable green plastic bags for the garbage. Too bad the garbage people don't understand that is bio-degradable! The summer time heat created so many maggot's in my garbage it made me sick. If there was a solution to that problem it would really benefit. Also, I have a problem understanding why it takes a plan to develop energy policies. Shouldn't it just be common sense?

The city is doing a wonderful job in alternate energies- please keep up the good work. Groups like green Venture are excellent at educating the public, and can also serve as a resource for the city. The money given to study pesticides on sports fields could have been saved by asking Green Venture and agriculture industry for their free advice.

What ever the city decides about waste you must be careful not to create a situation where people discard their waste in roadsides and other city areas.

Does anyone really believe that an anti-idle policy will work? Just exactly who will be around watching us 24 hours of the day to enforce this?

The city should look at energy from waste but it should ultimately be pursued by the private sector.

Sorting of garbage has become so complicated (blue box, green box) it is not worth the time for people with busy lives.

The city should not be enacting any by-laws that dictate to people what they can or can not spray on their private property. The city can do what it wants on city property."

Better educate newcomers to our city on the handling of waste and recycling.

Grocery stores (even Wal-Mart) now have these cash your self out machines. It's a matter of time before an environmentally conscious business person implements a fast food process where you can park, order on a touch screen and either have your food brought to your car (like the old A & W restaurant) or you can pick it up at the window when the order is ready. Paying, ordering and waiting is where all the idling comes into play. If that revolutionized way catches on, picture the environmental ramifications with all the reduced idling. Plus, if we do it 1st, we can capitalize on the added tourism and bragging rights. How many Tim Horton's & McDonalds are there in this city alone? Also, better timed lights & much more strict littering laws.

The City should offer more recycle Saturdays where people can bring in items not normally collected at the curb. The cost of doing so should be non perishable grocery items to assist with our local food banks thus assisting with poverty.

We should look at utilizing some brown fields for agriculture and involve the poverty roundtable in the growth and cultivation of fruits and vegetables it would be educational to some of our at risk youth and beneficial in feeding those that are less fortunate, the food banks would have fresh produce. Beautify our city with island beds of produce and make headlines doing so.

The biggest drawback to recycling is the horrible standards the employees performing those tasks adhere to. After every collection day, the amount of garbage and diverted material strewn around the neighborhood is a poor showing. Introducing collection fees is a sure fire way of ensuring our city becomes one large dump. People will NOT pay - but they will make sure their garbage finds its way into parks, etc.

No more bylaws, please - you can't enforce the ones you have now. Why introduce new laws, spend your efforts enforcing the ones you have now, only after doing a good job there, consider added new ones. The cars you have now (new ones) are an unproven technology, this may prove a large mistake.

I consider food and sporting fields to be totally different. I would prefer if farmers did not use pesticides but realized that this would have a large economic impact. Perhaps there is a reasonable substitute that can be developed over time.

No pesticides should be used on sports fields. Not necessary at all.

I feel that eliminating pick up of bulk items would result in a lot of couches being thrown in to ravines.

Your anti-idling policy for city vehicles is not working. Almost every day as I walk I see city vehicles sitting idling, and this is not in cold weather. Sometimes they park out of the way so they can't be seen. We should be able to report them to someone.

I believe the City would see a greater benefit to our air quality by improving traffic flow throughout the city. One example is in the downtown core where it now takes over 20 minutes to drive from Jackson Square to the mountain access on James Street due to the changeover to two way traffic. Another example on the mountain is Upper James and Garth St. If I leave my house after 8am - it can take up to 30 minutes to get to the Queen St access on some days.

The 403 access at Meadowlands is probably the best example of thousands of cars sitting for long periods of time and barely moving.

How would an anti-idling bylaw be enforced? Wardens can't be everywhere.

Taking waste management out of the tax bill is simply another way of increasing the taxation level and therefore unfair and underhanded.

It is my lawn and my choice - plus my lawn company informs me alternatives would mean a 50% increase in cost. Will you come and pick my dandelions?"

I resent having my garbage controlled and regulated where townhouses and some businesses don't - bags and bags of garbage - and I pay more taxes.

The pesticide bylaw is stupid. The chemicals are legal. You keep saying pesticide (to control pests) but include herbicides (to control plant growth) these are different things.

Your parks are a mess of weeds and brush and garbage - if they look like a dump people will treat them as a dump. Cut the grass and weeds - like a man with a new car but can't afford a haircut.

Bring back scheduled bulk pickups. A lot of waste diverted by private individuals picking up the night before - one mans junk is another mans gold.

Have more diversion days like the one at Lime Ridge mall

Increase fines for illegal dumping

Mandatory recycling must include schools and apartments.

I agree with paying for more garbage than allowed but you must take into account the # of people in each home. For instance we have a house in our neighbourhood with 1 person in it, and then there are some with 5-6 people. It's hard to say that the family of 6 is only allowed to put out the same amount of garbage as the family of 1. We have managed to keep our garbage down to 1 bag/wk with the use of the recycle buckets and green bin. You should have the green bins in the schools. You should also encourage them to recycle more & teach the kids about recycling more. I know our school has pizza every Wed. & it's amazing how many pizza boxes get thrown in the dumpster. Provide green bins for apple cores, fruit peels, etc.

I would support an in depth awareness campaign of how, what and most importantly why to recycle and use compost. Also give long term effects of what will be gained for the next generation as a result of increased recycling. Also, I enjoy the grass to be a beautiful shade of green when I play golf. Perhaps tax the industry more, which would increase the green fees. Golfers will always play golf, even with a 5-10 dollar increase to account for the cosmetic use of pesticides. Our city looks bad enough. At least the green grass improves the eye sore of a city.

Manufacturing facilities need to become more accountable and be fined heavier for their pollution. Citizens should not get services cut, unless they pay, for green house emissions that big business is more accountable for. I agree everyone can make a difference, however, we have a good recycle program and green bin program which is a huge help. Education is the next step.



Create a car pool lane on the 403 would be amazing and pushing non-smoking everywhere is a great way to help as well. Non-smoking also reduces fires a lot which in turn cut's costs in that department as well as the health care department."

The total elimination of pesticides is not practical. Some people are having seasonal allergies related to weeds etc. I think a reduction in the use of pesticides is a better way to go.

Making more biking lanes should be a top priority. In good weather I ride my bike from Ancaster to downtown Hamilton. The rail trail makes this possible but more bike lanes are critical to encouraging more people to do this. Sometimes I feel unsafe on the roads. I should not have to risk my life to do the right thing for the environment and my health.

After working for a lawn care company for years, I'd say that there are times when I'd rather see a properly trained & outfitted professional using lawn care products than a person who just buys them over the counter & uses them unsafely. I'm sure we will still be able to buy bags of fertilizer, weed n' feed, bug sprays, & herbicides over the counter. So what have we banned? Either we must lower our standards about what we consider to be desirable in parks, sports fields, & our own lawns, or consider changing what we plant to more diverse, bug & drought resistant ground covers, instead of just grasses.

I think curbside collections of bulk goods should remain. Twice a year would be fair.

DETOX NORTH HAMILTON SOIL and WATER! MORE BIKE LANES and BIKE parking posts.

Ban plastic shopping bags or require their sale rather than free distribution. Mandate high efficiency light bulbs like they have in other major cities in Europe. Curb the expansion of Big Box Store lay-out requiring drives between stores and promoting mass purchase of soon-to-be-land filled junk. Ensure apartment buildings have equal access and responsibility for recycling & composting.

Reducing the use of city owned cars etc. used for personal use would reduce fuel cost

Better mass transit to all areas of the City of Hamilton. Promote/Distribute affordable canvas reusable shopping bags to reduce ""plastic"" from grocery stores. (City Logo to promote city at same time) Make these available for groceries, library books, etc.

Promote reduction of litter thrown from car windows (coffee cups, fast food wrappers, CIGARETTE BUTTS. I live on Southcote; people finish coffee they bought in Meadowlands and throw on my front lawn!

We have almost diverted all of our waste to the green bin and blue bin, and the garbage we have left over is mainly kitty litter. Other cities allow kitty litter to be collected in the green bin - why doesn't Hamilton?

The anti-idling by-law has merit but will probably be offset by Councillor's request more & more stop signs for their wards - city departments & employees need to lead by example  
I strongly support policies across the board that are based on absolute best practices and best science with respect to stopping climate change.

The city must take the initiative in regards to waste reduction; however, levying a penalty on the end user for waste creation seems like barring the door once the horse has bolted. We need to

find a way to reduce at the source. The concept of a penalty for those who do not use green or blue bins is more palatable.

3 bag limits for garbage is fair and should be maintained. Need more garden/leaf pickup. Continue blue box and green cart. Spend time on public/private buildings and apartments

I am against strict environmental restrictions in Hamilton alone unless it is to be provincially enforced. Why should we here in Hamilton be the trend setters when higher populated areas are still not doing so? Our local business will suffer losses as people escape to other outlying communities to bypass such restrictions. I would rather wait until all communities are mandated together

Clean up Hamilton Harbour and Remediate Brown fields

I support restricting pesticide use for health reasons; yet, I would want to ensure we would not interfere with our world class golf course and make sure we investigate all options and potential repercussions carefully.

Individual homes aren't the problem. Businesses are. Businesses in Hamilton (including the city itself) don't promote or enforce recycling and green bin usage enough. Many businesses (again, including the city itself) don't even have the appropriate materials (recycling bins, green bins, etc) on site, or it's unclear which receptacle is for which type of garbage, so even if employees and/or patrons wanted to do their part, they can't. Many businesses offer no recycling or green bin receptacles in their publicly accessible areas, instead keeping them in staff-only areas.

I would like to see the return of two bulk garbage days a year where residents can put out furniture and any other goods so that residents can take them for their own use and not going into land fill.

I do not use pesticides on my lawn-I believe in natural gardening however I have a neighbor that has allergies and I can understand that her lawn is sprayed. When we interfere with people choices on this level I would say, have a look first where important things are lacking, fire safety and enforcement in back yards, building with no permits, lack of general by law enforcement, anti idling...and more.

As currently constituted, I support the use of a stabilized land fill option for non-recyclable non compost waste. However, there are other options that we need to consider as we strive to reduce what is created, including looking for additional ways to reuse or recycle what remains in the so called 35 per cent left over. Despite improvements in technology, the existent of the incineration option continues to be the biggest economic and social disincentive to reduction and recycling.

In this community, we must move forward carefully on any user fee option while so many of our community are living in poverty. There is a fine balance between using them as a means of changing behaviour for those who will continue to be wasteful otherwise.

City staff have little pride at the moment. Thus they are neglectful and do not do a good job. Trucks are left with engines running; grass cutters in parks do not care if they run over shrubs or cut litter into shreds and leave it.

Hiring practices need to be improved so that we have a team who is keen to do a good job. Staff should only be hired if they understand environmental priorities and care about them.

Green cart program: bring it on. We've been pushing for it for 2 years at 5 Ogilvy St. Still waiting.

All pesticides should be banned. Period.

Bulk-goods: whether eliminating or implementing user fees, other options need to be front and centre so people can make an educated decision concerning their garbage.

REDUCING EMISSIONS and others: ALL NEW BUILDINGS IN HAMILTON SHOULD HAVE A GREEN ROOF in order to contain rain water (less demand on our sewer systems) and ""clean"" downtown (that's right, oxygen released from those green roofs would help clean the air AND bring down the temperature during those hot days). CHECK OUT many US cities, like Chicago.

Public private partnerships tied to suitable redevelopment of brown fields.

Tax incentives for green industries

Hamilton already has extensive parkland and conservation areas, keep maintaining these

Continue with the harbour cleanup and waterfront redevelopment

Fees for more than one bag of garbage per week for households

Our elderly population would be subject to an open market on bulk good removal, which can't be allowed to happen.

I could see a ban on chemical pesticides as long as there was a permit for the use of them when nothing else will cure the problem.

The office of energy should be part of a larger mandate (the planning department) or could be eliminated all together and substituted (outsourced) by contracted work/ projects on an "as needed" basis.

If you eliminate pesticides on sports fields, you HAVE to cut the grass more often!

With respect to anti idling, a major source of idling comes from the many drive-throughs in the city. New ones should not be approved, and a campaign should encourage people to get out of their cars and go in to coffee shops, restaurants, etc.

Promotion of recycling in workplaces should take place. I notice that at my workplace, even though recycling is available, people still throw away things that can be recycled.

Commercial businesses and institutions should be fined for not recycling.

Hamilton should support an 'exchange facility' for some bulk goods and small appliances, paints, etc in an attempt to divert them from landfill.

The green bin should be expanded and limits on the amount of yard waste needs to be removed. People are annoyed with the limits after the initial introduction and frequently hide yard waste in regular garbage bags now.

I support exempting agricultural lands for pesticide use, but not for sports fields."

I'd love to see a push on eliminating pesticides except where absolutely necessary. (Some times, a chemical IS needed.) Honestly, I believe you need to educate home owners on how simple it is to have a green lawn and not use so many chemicals. An added note that it does take the lawn & garden a couple of yrs to go through the change over; it simply doesn't happen overnight. I think there is a huge myth by home owners that it is too much work to have a chemical free-green lawn.

I'd prefer to see soccer fields etc, use no chemicals (except in an invasion of some sort) & just be kept clean cut.

I do not support any ban on the use of pesticides. There is no valid scientific study that they are a danger to the public if used properly. If the city feels they are a danger and needs to ban them, then all usage should be banned including golf courses and on all agricultural land. If they are bad on my lawn then they are bad everywhere.

Eliminating pesticides on sports fields, for example, can only be done effectively if more effort is put into top dressing, over seeding, aerating, etc. I would only support elimination of pesticides on city land if considerable money was budgeted to properly care for the maintenance of the lands. Pesticides are used because they are the cheapest alternative.

The green cart and blue box programs are run well in Hamilton and have led our family to divert most of our garbage. Town parks, especially in rural areas have spotty recycling opportunities at best and need improved. The new Dundas Transfer Station has a new great set-up with regards to recycling of things like computers, metals, wood, batteries -- This probably should be promoted a bit better.

I believe that anti-idling reduction should be done by education as well and incentive programs. I don't by-law officer's work. Could bulk good not be collected- but then sold or given to charity or recycled?

A user fee for collection of bulk goods (if I knew that every effort was being made to keep them from landfill) would be good.

Agriculture is the only place where spraying pesticides/herbicides is acceptable.

Air quality is the biggest environmental challenge facing the City, then litter/graffiti. We need to make the lower City a place that people want to live in if they have a choice...

Hamilton has amazing natural environmental features - the Niagara Escarpment Plan area, the Bay, the RBG lands, and more. We should celebrate and publicize these features in any marketing of the City.

Motivate actions using positive credits and benefits rather than fines and restrictions

The bulk pick up should be brought back to specific days. I believe it worked. People drove around took a lot of the bulk so it was a good idea for everyone. Living in the country your can drive down side roads and see garbage in the ditches because people don't want to pay to get rid of it so you should be allowed to take garbage free to the dump then the ditches are clear and city workers don't have to pick it up.

Regarding the collection of bulk items: I would worry that if there is a fee for this service that some people will simply dump their old furniture into ravines. The City should continue to collect this stuff but why not bring it to the Salvation Army or some sort of "clearing house". The items could then be sorted and useful items could be used by someone or some organization. Regarding pesticides: I would support the exemption for agricultural lands but not sports fields. I would rather my son play on a soccer field with dandelions then pesticides. I like the idea of banning future drive-thrust.

Hamilton's degraded environment is its greatest liability and stumbling block in attracting highly educated individuals and high value-added businesses. \*Anything\* Hamilton can do to improve the health of the environment should be pursued vigorously. The city needs to show leadership away from the addiction to toxic industries and archaic toxic industrial approaches to everything from transportation to lawn care.

Turf management of golf courses can be done organically to a point but do not force a pesticide rule on them. Golf courses rely on good greens and fairways to attract golfers (profits).

I think we should allow residents to put out their old furniture etc. for a day or 2 on specified days every quarter and let the rest of us see if we can reuse what someone else calls garbage. If there are no takers, then a fee-based pick-up can happen.

I am a gardener. I pay a lot of money for my plants and I wouldn't want to have my garden wiped out because I can't use an appropriate product. Trees and plants are good for the environment. Lawns are meant to go brown in the summer heat. Please be careful about what is considered 'cosmetic'.

You do not need cars use the public transit system or walk.

Green cart services should be provided to businesses and institutions as they are for residential areas.

Businesses should be required to pay fines for putting recyclable materials in the garbage (i.e. paper, bottles, cans, plastic containers, etc.)

Please distribute better and clearer detailed information about what can and can't be recycled (similar to the detailed list we got with the green carts when they were distributed).

Is it true that if there is something not recyclable in your blue box, then all of it goes in the garbage? This should be publicized. Also, is it true that if food containers are not completely cleaned out, they go in the garbage? If so, the public should be told that too.

Pesticide exemptions only for agriculture. In areas of the city that are Brownfield or rundown industrial areas immature trees (lower cost and young trees use more CO2 then more mature trees) should be planted by the 1000's. Volunteers (great way to get volunteer hours for high

school students) could take on the bulk of the work. Include areas along the Linc and other highway corridors.

Get the Bay cleaned up! Make the industries that contaminated the lake pay up now! Continue the redevelopment of Bay front properties we must keep it up. Add a Windmill field into the Bay, its shallow and windy, space them so sail boats can still enjoy the bay. Add some solar panels to some of the unused brown fields that are too polluted to support organic life."

Bulk goods collection should go to recycling, not landfill. The private sector could probably do as good a job or better at less cost.

Cosmetic pesticides reduce the weeds that often cause allergy problems. I live close to a public park & since the pesticides were eliminated & vegetation cutting was curtailed I've had continuous problems with my allergies.

I think sustainable economic development assumes that our environment and our resources are properly managed. Ultimately we must "cure the diseases" facing the environment and not just "treat the symptoms". For example, why do we allow packaging materials that cannot be recycled? Why do we not require all new home construction to be energy efficient? I think the anti-idling bylaw proposal will lead to more grief than its worth. Enforcement will be a major pain. I think we need to "simplify" the environmental issues so as to make it very, very obvious to everyone what behaviors we need to change and how to change them. I am currently the citizen rep on the Waste Reduction Task Force. I am looking forward to helping us achieve the 65% goal.

Pesticides may be needed in agriculture, but the least hazardous should be used. Sports fields should only be done if there is a real need and not just done routinely. Pesticides should be allowed on private lawns for insect problems, but not for weed killing etc. We use an organic program, but occasionally have to use a pesticide to prevent grubs which is a common problem in our area.

I would like to see blue box be streamlined (no sorting needed) this would make it easier for people to recycle. Also, bulk goods and bulk pick-up days; why not try to resell some of the goods at a community yard sale or something like that. This would also bring in a few dollars, and save landfill space. I'm sure volunteers would run it as well.

I am concerned that if a fee was levied to pick up of bulk goods, those who could not afford it would either take to dumping the goods in rural areas or not eliminating them but stockpiling in yards...which is done now in some cases. There should be free pick up but the goods should go somewhere else.

There should be some evidence or evaluation published that proves that the Office of Energy Initiatives and the Green Fleet actually do produce the savings they propose to produce. Did they actually save money? Does the move away from natural gas to diesel fuel actually reduce poor air emissions? They sound like good initiatives, but the effectiveness needs to be proven. The Waste Plan is too confusing and there are too many changes over & over each year. The City doesn't follow its own anti-idling rules.

The City should do its role to create a greener environment, and much more could be done.

In terms of bulk disposal of household goods, go back to the older style of set pick up dates over the year, rather than the current 'call and pick up' system. With the older, scheduled pickups, scavengers would come out and pickup - a huge amount of materials were recycled/reused, that would have otherwise gone to the landfill.

Did you know that Hamilton's birth rate is 4000 per year consequently a child will produce 1 ton of diaper waste throughout their infant years. Knowing this waste can be recycled and if the city would reimburse home owner with cost to recycle this waste which would align with Hamilton's waste diversion plan and attract young families to participate. What are we waiting for?

There is too much emphasis on greenhouse gases, need more emphasis on reducing particulate pollutants and stop the 'fad' embracing of greenhouse gas reduction. The quality of our Air and Water is the highest priority for all citizens in the world not just Hamilton.

Include tree planting and sufficient green space/wetlands within city planning. Have recycling containers mandated in offices and businesses within the city.

Energy from waste would increase dump life & possibly decrease the amt of energy purchased, win-win. People may not care enough about the environment to increase green cart use (environment vs. convenience) but a fee for excess garbage may encourage it, fines would be difficult to enforce and may not produce enough income to make it beneficial to hire more bylaw staff. Elimination of bulk p/u may encourage illegal dumping but a small user fee may encourage reusing/donation of items. Perhaps implementing a reward incentive to encourage donation or a donation centre at dump sites. Pesticides should be limited (not eliminated) with use permitted on agriculture/golf course etc. perhaps reward incentives to use of "natural/green" products

Hybrid vehicles are false economy. Reduction can be achieved by reducing the amount of cars/trucks on the road. How many of the cities trucks really have to be on the road? I've seem many just driving around aimlessly.

Fees should never be imposed on garbage collection. If this service was efficient as it can be, it would cost 30% less.

I support eliminating the use of cosmetic pesticides; however I would ONLY exempt agriculture, not sports fields. Sport fields can have weeds; there is no good reason to spray. I'd prefer to know that my child is falling onto a pesticide free field than one that has been sprayed.

I would support use of pesticides in agriculture for licensed users, i.e. those who have taken a course and been certified in correct usage. I would definitely not support continued usage for sports fields, since these are most used by our children, the most vulnerable to pesticides. Therefore, agriculture and sports fields should NOT be linked together.

Define when idling is 'necessary' or 'unnecessary' - is idling at a drive-thru necessary? I don't think the law would do much good if the drive-thrus could get through this loophole.

The city needs to have less car lanes and more bike lanes. Hamilton is a beautiful city that has bike trails in various parks and recreation sites like the Escarpment Rail Trail and the Waterfront Trail; however, there are very few designated bike lanes roads aside from Stonechurch Rd and part of Main St. W near Dundurn St. The city needs to get rid of some car lanes and designate them as bike lanes. For example, Main St W and King St E should have marked bike lanes as

well as Wellington St. and Victoria St. Four lanes of traffic are unsustainable. If the city wants to improve air quality, then make it safer for bicyclers.

I would support a user fee for collection of bulk goods if the City would ensure an environmentally sound disposal method.

The existing bulk goods program because this is an area that desperately needs innovation that would include ideas such as reclaiming useable materials in bulk goods and/or shipping them to central exchange locations that could be operated by Goodwill, for example.

Like many cities, Hamilton has property policies rooted in antiquated views of aesthetics. Naturalizing private and parklands is a vital step toward healthier living. We need to focus on native plant species that require less water (perhaps xeriscaping) and diversity (tree planting programs) that improves resilience.

Some questions have no 'good' answers possible: e.g. the energy from waste question. I believe this refers to burning waste, but I'm not 100% positive. I don't support burning waste. It may be there are other ways to recover energy from waste; if so, I would support that.

You say there are many options for the reuse of bulk goods - do you provide information on these options? That would be helpful for people looking to dispose of items. Otherwise, the easy thing to do is to put it on the curb. I don't think user fees will be helpful."

DIVERTING GARBAGE IS NOT GOING TO HELP OUT THE AREA OR ANY OTHER AREA, SO FINDING ANOTHER SOLUTION IS PROBABLY A BETTER IDEA.

Why don't the police and other EMS services use hybrid vehicles? They're the ones that idle their vehicles the most.

A ban on pesticides on personal land is wrong, what about all the people with allergies to weeds etc. Don't they count

In Flamborough we used to have a several bulk pickup days. Unfortunately this was discontinued. This bulk pickup was great because many people used it to pick up items that they could use, fix, or sell in flea markets etc. So not only did this prevent items from going into landfill but it helped many who could use the unwanted toys, soft-goods, furniture, household items, TV's etc that other people no longer needed. It was amazing how popular these pickup days were. Often things put out at curbside the night before were picked up by others before the next morning. I often say people driving along the streets salvaging perfectly good items.

"Number 8 exempt agriculture but not sports fields.

Creating one facility that would take everything from bulk, to hazardous waste to recycling etc - like Halton would be the way to go. Then you could impose a fee and people wouldn't mind if they could do all there garbage in one spot. I would model it after the Halton Recycling facility on Bronte.

I believe each of us has to do our part for the environment. When you hear of stories of people separating there garbage and somebody then tells them it all goes to the same place anyway you think why bother doing that. Citizens need to be informed about where things go, how they are reused and the outcomes of there efforts.



Surveys are difficult to construct - and some of your questions do not lead to an answer:

The Steel mills must reduce their pollutants. Stelco and Dofasco and other process industries in Hamilton must be held accountable for what they discharge and must do so in a responsible way. Also, tractor trailers, which are heavy and pollute with their diesel engines, should be restricted in the downtown areas to service roads and should not be allowed to drive on any street they wish, as their weight destroys roads which are not designed to support them.

Bulk goods should not be directed to landfill, find donation site /alternatives...in many cases, materials are recyclable/reusable....why use for landfill?

I believe the hybrid vehicles are more expensive to buy for the City employees to use. I would cut down on the amount of vehicles purchased. I have seen some vehicles sitting at the employees homes (why can't they use their own personal vehicle to get to work) like everyone else. You see City vehicles idling all the time while the employees are having a coffee and watching the worker dig a hole for something.

There are many new and innovative ways to create energy and I think that the City should be really looking into these alternatives such as wind mills  
have truck only lanes on major thoroughfares – i.e. Centennial Pkwy - trucks should only be in right lane-when they use all lanes it slows traffic down considerably-thereby causing the autos to almost creep up the hill

There must be a safer pesticide out there.

I agree with going 'green', alternate energy initiatives and using alternate powered vehicles. However we must watch the cost. Most cases initial cost does not pay back and the savings in emissions can be saved without going to alternate fuels. Just by simply purchasing lower emission / better fuel mileage vehicles.

I think every effort should be made to reduce the size of the fleet, initiate a policy of having city employees use public transit. In Item 6 with regards to 'bulk goods' perhaps shifting this potential resource to a commercial collector [such as the Amity] which would use the items for re-fitting would be an alternative to eliminating the service altogether. Also I've heard that casual collection of these items is currently illegal and that seems counter-productive.

The pesticides raise concerns for average people to still maintain cosmetic aesthetics. Other options need to be made available to the public.

Bio diesel is also another option for reducing environmental issues. My husband has been experimenting with bio diesel, but what does the city of Hamilton think about it???? Rothsay Reclaimables makes bio diesel available for commercial use with no conversions necessary. What about public use?

Read the peak oil report again

Please consider collection points for dog dung and methods of handling this material in the household waste. Perhaps our beaches would be less contaminated after a rain storm. Also, it is a significant percentage of what now goes to landfill.

It's ironic that with all the ongoing industrial pollution this city has been exposed to that the anti idling topic is even an issue. Go after industry!!

I agree that pesticides may be needed in agriculture, but I do not necessarily see the need for continued use of pesticides in sports fields.

I think that the city could do more in the preservation of green spaces, agricultural land and developing strategies to prevent/reduce "urban sprawl". There needs to be a green cart system for apartment buildings not only blue bins. I am not sure what can be done about the poor air quality of this city. What about wind energy harvesting and recognition for companies that are working toward a greener environment?

I actually turn my car engine off when it is stopped at red lights, for environmental reasons. I support an anti-idling bylaw.

The most helpful thing the city could do to encourage me to recycle more would be to provide my household with an easy-to-read thorough guide to what can be recycled and into which box it could be put. The guide that came round when we got the green box was helpful, but things could be done better. (The booklet that came with the green box was fine. I am thinking about the guide as to what you can put into each of your two blue boxes.) It would also help to have a red box for hazardous materials, with a pickup schedule. I do not support coercive measures to get people to use these things; peer pressure is enough.

Are HSR buses covered under the Anti-Idling regulations? It is ironical to see buses idling and particularly so in the vicinity of health institutions. Where are the no-idling signs in public places? And why not for everyone? Of course, if you cannot enforce the rules, you should not bother to create them. Can we use plants that provide good earth cover and drown out weeds (in public places\_? If the public spaces use perennials would they cost less to maintain. In a major southern city, I noticed that they are using herbs as low growing shrubbery in the parks. Provide households with more green bins and recycle bins, provide incentives for those households that do use them and fine people if they have too many garbage bags being collected

If by-laws are enacted they need pre-education and ENFORCEMENT as well as ongoing work i.e. help companies to establish safer lawn controls so they make not lose money. I turn off my car motor at stoplights but with no amber to warn me that the light is about to change to green it is hard to know when to restart--result angry motorists behind me.

#### ENCOURAGE CAR POOLS, TO ELIMINATE EMISSIONS

Bulk goods should be diverted from landfill if possible. Small user fees may be acceptable but ultimately this is part of regular taxation, is an unusual event and should be paid from normal taxes only without user fees. It is the cities job. The city is a place to live. Healthy environment means a place where people are allowed to live by being able to easily gain employment for access to money. This city is not a good place to live as I myself have no idea how to earn an income, and it is not because I am uneducated. It is because I cannot fit in to the resume generation genre. How do you ask for a job when you have been looking for years?

I only support the exception of agriculture from not using cosmetic pesticides; sport fields should either switch to non-chemical maintenance or synthetic field material such as is used at the stadium.

I think there are bigger concerns with pollution in this city than lawn care and cars idling...that would be the factories. I understand that these create lots of jobs and keep our economy moving, however it's a catch 22. The pollution created by them is a big concern to me and a deterrent to people living in our community.

Again, most of these questions come down to a matter of political willingness to do what is right for the community despite the wishes of a few, i.e. money holders and influential corporations etc. The community needs to come first

Home waste collection can work. We have six people in our house and since the Green Cart program came out we have no more than 2 bags of garbage (even at Christmas) and usually less than one full garbage bag. We have 3-5 blue carts and a half to 3/4 full green cart each week. Most people are too lazy. Fine them.

The sooner we eliminate pesticides the better we will be. Bulk waste is money for someone. Steel is still in demand and is recyclable - bulk goods need to be broken down. If necessary, let the private sector pick these up - many do now for free. "

The largest user of Pesticides/herbicides is Agriculture and it is them who most contribute to the contamination of the water sources and ground water. Understanding we need to protect our local crop production. The various alternative methods promoted in the market place today are designed for homeowners with small areas to maintain...not large land management institutions such as municipalities with park systems, golf courses etc. The alternatives promoted are not aimed at large scale land managers as it is not commercially viable to do so at this time. The way to go is education...which Hamilton already does in partnership with Green venture and reduction policies. Elimination may be politically sexy but not financially responsible.

Green cart program is excellent. Very proactive.

Protect our remaining green spaces. Curb and limit further airport development which only increases both noise and air pollution and further compromises our air quality. Support and encourage healthy food choices, promote locally grown fruit/vegetables from area growers.

More lands should be dedicated to conservation. Parks do not need to be landscaped to death. Kids like trees and rocks and mud etc. I do realize that liability issues are to be considered but I think people's expectations and their inability to take on responsibility for themselves and their behavior has led us to mortgaging our children's future just to avoid a few dandelions and uneven ground.

On my street, most people are recycling. Those who don't are also the ones who fail to shovel snow. They let their dogs defecate in the park, refuse to keep their property tidy, won't maintain their lawn. If people lack the will to follow simple rules, making our city a cleaner and safer place, they should pay extra. I shovel the sidewalk of the widow beside me, but the house on the other side is owned by a lazy slob who doesn't even live there. I will not shovel his walk.

If bulk items put out for garbage are reusable maybe the city should not send everything to the landfill but offer a place to recycle items. Also if there are organic pesticides available the city and citizens should be using them exclusively.

I support most green initiatives, but I do not think laws against idling vehicles would make a strong impact. With respect to bulk goods, I think there should be a program where anything that gets picked up that is still good, should be reused/resold somehow. I think pesticides should be eliminated from sport fields. Pesticides should not be banned in agriculture, but there should be incentives given not to use them.

Hamilton's property taxes are already obscene; it would be criminal to further charge user fees for any form of garbage collection! Will city council pay to replace my lawn if it is killed by insects? In the last twenty years, three people in my neighborhood have lost their lawns due to insect vacation while they were vacation. Judicial use of insecticides and pesticides is important in maintaining attractive properties to enhance property values, to control destructive insects, and to curtail the growth of weeds to which many people are allergic.

With respect to the bulk goods collection, these should not be sent directly to the Glanbrook landfill.

The City should look into gathering these bulk goods and delivering them INTACT to a central site for a one week period where other citizens can pick through and buy what they want. Then landfill the rest.

I think that most of the things in this category require more public education programs, not necessarily more money or marketing. I think it is important to recycle as much as possible, and divert as much as possible from our landfill sites. I love the green box program, but have been discouraged by poor collection. I also think the collectors should be more careful when throwing our bins and green carts back onto our properties. As for pesticides, it is my understanding that there are many organic or less toxic methods to control pests and I think they should be pursued because not using anything detracts from the beauty of our boulevards and green spaces throughout the city.

One household does not generate a lot of used batteries. I would like to see strategic places where we could drop used batteries.

How is the office of energy initiatives accountable to the public? It is about time we ban pesticide use - I would like to see a phase in of a total ban and supports to help agriculture and parks work towards this. This is the food we eat and the areas our kids play on and we are hesitating to ban pesticides from these areas??? This is long overdue and people who are opposing this are living in denial of the problems created by environmental pollution.

It doesn't matter what else any city has, if you can't breathe the air, it's not a good place to live. Clean air should be a priority. What about bio-diesel being made available to the public? I would use it.

I would not exempt sports fields, but I would exempt agricultural lands. Our farmers have it tough enough already.

Do you know that chlorine is a carcinogenic a know poison, and we put in our drinking water, and there are so many other things that we use that are poisons why do we pick on pesticides, and herbicides , did you know that a well maintained lawn 200'x400' provides a enough oxygen for a family of 4 to live. Yes regulate keep it out of the hands that don't know how to use it, but don't let our lawns get in the shape ,like the Board of Ed. did a few years ago, keep our city looking like we our proud of it , Regulate don't eliminate.

The city will have to start fining people for idling their vehicles to make it work, this includes city vehicles.

I'm not convinced that hybrid vehicles are the way to go. They are way too expensive right now. Bio-diesel - I have doubts about that too, the energy used to produce it is high so that defeats the purpose. I am all for the environment. We have to get people driving less."

Anti-idling - I support coordinating traffic lights; newly installed lights create more idling. What's the sense of banning idling the city is creating by installing new tr. lights?

Pesticides - the recent pesticide bans exclude golf courses and agriculture. This is discriminatory. The Homeowner can still buy the Chemical at the nursery and is the least qualified to apply it. Banning pesticide application by lawn care companies only addresses 2% of the use and they are the ones qualified & licensed to use and apply the product. Let's look at the scientific evidence that says it's toxic. Aspirin is toxic if used improperly. Let's let the professional lawn care companies do their job.

Where is the mention of a Kyoto plan for the city? I mean, there isn't even a mention! This is offensive to me as I know this is the most important challenge the world has ever faced and we don't even mention it. A comprehensive Kyoto plan for the city should be the major priority for the city and once again this most serious of issues isn't even mentioned. I guess our elected officials don't really care or they are severely out of touch."

Big garbage day was an excellent method of recycling, now lost. Does Hamilton know what a farmer is? Stop mowing the roadside and save a lot of money and be greener

A required (significant) green space component factored in to any and all new development with significant planning to tie multiple green spaces together in urban area - green cities are the new future of urban living and Hamilton is fortunate at this point in time to still have the opportunities to develop with a focus on green spaces (unlike, say, Toronto, which has paved over most of the city already)...for example - if a developer wants to develop 10 hectares of land, 30% must remain 'green' or untouched. Then, should a developer want to develop, say, a 20 hectare parcel next to this, then 30% of that must be green AND tie directly into the green space of the 1st land development.

I support farmers using what they need, at minimal applications. I do not support pesticide use on sports fields, school grounds, parks, etc. This has been my personal position for over 25 years. I like the questions you are asking. Have you considered a funding program for retrofitting of active solar in office towers, the use of active solar in new construction, wind turbines, etc? This could be a combined federal, provincial and municipal initiative. You could require the use of environmentally neutral building practices and materials, for example sub soiling in all new developments as a condition of the issuance of permits. Keep asking the right questions.

Waste collection is a huge contributor to cost and emissions. Encourage home composting (no pickup), and engage a third party for a fee based bulk goods pickup, (internet vouchers maybe) for recycling.

How about if we clean the air and reduce toxic dumping practices before we concern ourselves with discretionary private use of pesticides?

This is part of the city's image problem. The environment should be a priority, and Hamilton should consider becoming a leader in clean technology. This would create jobs that require white collar and blue collar positions.

For residential communities the blue box and green bin programs are working well. Hamilton must extend these programs to include all residences, including high-rise apartments, and to all businesses, small and large. Compliance must be enforced with user fees etc., for those who exceed maximum household output of garbage. Bulk goods should be collected and sorted for possible reuse/recycling of parts.

The city that goes green is the city of the future. We can pay now (cheaper) or later (more expensive). Please City Hall gets dictatorial on environmental issues. This is not a matter for the faint of heart - our future is at stake - really.

Repeal the breed ban. Stop canine slaughter

Perhaps more public education about the ways that citizens could improve the environment. Also, if the City could identify and educate the public about available options for re-cycling that are not currently known (i.e. we have 100's of video tapes that we would like to dispose of and don't know if there is any option for re3cycling them. We hate to throw anything in the land fill, but often don't know where to take items like this.

I think the latest report card on how little we have done and how much needs to be done to protect our environment should be a wakeup call to us all without having to justify it. The more we can do to sustain what little we have left and possibly turn around the damages done is all good for me.

Along with pesticides, I would like to see a reduction or alternative to salt on roads and sidewalks. There should be a campaign to encourage everyone to use transit, and routes should be beefed up if necessary.

I support more by-law enforcement officers to pull over polluting vehicles. I suggest a hot line where people can report polluting vehicles easily. The police need to be pulling these vehicles over and ticketing them.

Connect the city with the churches and faith-based organizations. True City Churches want to be a blessing to our city--this is part of why we exist. So how can churches be mobilized to work with the city on issues like healthy environment and care for the poor. We want to be part of the conversation. We want to be partners.

The Aerotropolis idea is a bad. Jets are among the biggest climate change polluters and hydrocarbon fuels will be very expensive, so getting rid of agricultural land to replace it with industrial land to be serviced by airplanes makes little sense. We will need agricultural land for local produce, because food brought in from far will have a big transport cost and because our borders may be closed due to strategic reasons or a world infectious disease plague. We need to develop our central city core, including brown fields as places for industry to settle and make Hamilton a world centre of education and art. We need to place the environment front and centre in our school curriculum.

I would like to see the green box program offered to those in small business and apt buildings; especially apt buildings

We need the green carts to be bigger and blue bins need to be designed the same style but bigger. A family of four can easily fill a green cart in a week and the blue bins having to separate everything is not too convenient.

The energy from waste option should only be used after we have done everything to reach our goal of 65% waste diversion. If an incinerator is built too soon, people won't even try to divert.

I would exempt agricultural uses of pesticides if there were no other way to eliminate the pest and crops were threatened. For sports fields, I think we should eliminate the use of cosmetic insecticides.

A pesticide limit would be great but not entire elimination.

The collection of bulk goods right now seems like a waste of money. The old way (when one date was picked for all) was much better. One week I will call for a bulk pick up, the next week someone else on my block will.

## A Better Place to Live

*Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on how the City can make the Greater Hamilton Area a better place to live. (750 character limit)*

### Responses

A tree and park foundation would be a good start to provide upstart and allocation funding to parks and tree maintenance. Volunteer "Friends of X park" style in the local community could take on responsibility of parks in their respective areas and increase community awareness and civic pride of urban greenspaces. Tying in with the "Buy Local" theme should be an "Act local" movement as well...

We have a good trails and Bikeways map - what else is proposed, good idea to do more, but only if it is actually useful.

We need more natural plantings in our parks - if done right these should reduce long-term management costs.

Recycling yes - but we don't need recycling or garbage containers in all locations - we do need to educate people to be responsible for their own waste and enforce littering bylaws strictly with increased fines.

I would prefer that cost efficiencies are found across the city council programs to fund improved fire and ambulances services (and important improvements to other services) rather than automatically assume that tax increases should pay for them - WE PAY TOO MUCH TAX ALREADY. I would suggest that you do the service reviews across all areas with the aim of saving a certain percentage in each service (having been part of best value reviews in the UK health sector I know it can be done and savings are usually found) - the savings can then start to be used to fund expansions to services e.g. reinstating flower plantings, full time fire service in Flamborough etc.

The city should encourage the development of community associations and assist with start up efforts. Volunteers can help maintain our parks and gardens. Community associations can adopt their area and help maintain them.

YOU CAN PREACH TO RESIDENTS TO NOT LITTER AND TAKE THEIR WASTE HOME, BUT IN REALITY-IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN! EDUCATION COULD BE KEY IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO HELP PREVENT LITTERING, ALSO IMPLEMENT A LITTER PICK-UP AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR DELINQUENTS.PICKING UP TRASH IS A REAL EYE-OPENER-THIS IS COMING FROM EXPERIENCE FROM WORKING IN PARKS!ONCE YOU PICK UP OTHER PEOPLES GARBAGE-YOU WILL NEVER LITTER AGAIN!

Again, stop wasting money! Our taxes are much too high, especially in the rural areas. User fees should cover the cost of recreational programs, not taxpayers.

Fire protection should be at 100% before any new housing is approved- it is unfair to existing home that do not have service but have been paying in.

No need to send firefighters to all medical calls.



## TOO MANY FIREFIGHTERS

Replace the notion of success thru economic development with the notion of success thru self reliance - support the recommendations of the Electric City report by R Gilbert, to reduce the City's energy demands, increase local production of energy and create significant job growth - both short term re retrofitting existing buildings, and longer term re innovative sustainable energy technologies. This will also allow Hamilton to genuinely change its image from a dirty industrial centre to a 21st century centre of sustainability excellence - and the world will beat a path to our door.

The Ontario and Federal Government needs to take on the responsibility of servicing programs for poverty. The city does not have the resources or ability to do so. The city needs to put more pressure on behalf of poverty on the Ontario and Federal Governments. It is too big of an issue for any city to under take. Hamilton is a place which attracts many disadvantage persons. It is a lost cheaper living in Hamilton than living in Toronto. This is a provincial issue not a city issue.

Although not in the past 12 months, I have used the ambulance services in recent years when caring for an elderly relative, I was very satisfied with it all times I had to use it. I used fire services when my carbon monoxide alarm sounded and was satisfied by the thorough inspection they performed but was annoyed that they sent the large fire truck with ladder rather than simply sending a small car, preferably hybrid. While I say I support financial assistance for those living in poverty, I only support it if the money goes towards long term solutions such as education, training, and job creation to break the cycle of people living with social assistance. I think that trees should be added but by residents rather than total city funding.

Parks and flowers are important image factors for the city... many people outside our city think it's dirty and poor. This is a direct image issue. It's something you see everyday coming in and out of this city. Same goes for public recycling bins and streetscape.

The city shouldn't fund flowers for roadway islands - plant trees to reduce global warming impacts or offer the beds to local sponsors who can post a sign saying they planted the plants.

Resources can be allocated to maintain the trail program, but don't waste money advertising it.

I think it is imperative to preserve the undeveloped lands below the escarpment. These lands will not benefit anyone by being filled with houses. Instead continue the thought process of making it a unique agricultural green city by promoting and developing these lands into more tender fruit and the very profitable vineyard direction. Again, two words NAPA VALLEY.

De-amalgamate back to the original municipalities

Aspects like culture and parks are seemingly easy places to cut - but these elements are critical to making a city a great place to live, work and visit. If Hamilton is serious about a new image - this is the place to start!!

The above re: parks flowers etc. are an important part of the community. They however are not priorities over feeding the poor or more important issues.

Get your financial house in order and we should be able to fund all of the things listed in this section.

Why not look at zeriscaping and other low-maintenance plans that are beautiful, yet require much less watering and maintenance. Native species would make good choices. We need beautiful islands, but having them all as introduced annuals and water-hungry plants doesn't make sense when there are viable alternatives.

Let's cover some of these costs through increased taxes and make Hamilton a place to work and live

Hamilton is a dumping ground for poverty; other cities around us ship their poor off this way so their cities look better. Something has to be done about that. As for welfare, after someone has been on it for 6 months a social worker should interview them, and if there is no solid reason as to why they haven't been able to pick themselves up off of it, then a WORK FOR WELFARE. No reason why I should have to do a 40+ hour week, and they get to make almost as much before even getting out of bed.

More money needs to be put in low-income schools. More programs for the kids to stay out of trouble

Reading some of these questions I came to realize that the priorities in Hamilton are not necessarily its citizens, from a political view. Please tell me if anyone really cares whether or not there are flowers in a traffic circle, or a young child starving because her family has no money to eat. I fully support planting trees and setting up recycling, these have long term effects, but a \$500,000 budget for shrubs and flowers? That is ridiculous, set aside an area in parks where people from the neighborhood can plant flowers if you want but put the \$500,000 into the most valuable resource in the city, its people. One out of five living below the poverty line you say, well do something to fix it!

911 can be slow at times. In fact, I've had them call me back 20 minutes after the fact when 911 didn't answer. Maybe some funds should be allocated to the call centre!

Quit bringing people into the city unless they are working.

Why are health and fire combined? I thought the fire department responded in the absence of an immediate EMS. Each time we called 911 both arrived. Excellent service; waste of resources.

Two things: Cultural & sporting events.....this should be funded by private interests; this is where we go "off track" all the time.....we venture into areas that are not basic public services. Although this would be nice, we have to be realistic and leave this to private interests. Also, on poverty. Hamilton is poverty stricken, to be sure. Our manufacturing base has imploded in the past few years. But, we don't need fancy and expensive commissions, and committee's to study this. What we need is for the city to find ways of attracting all types of business and industry to the city. The best solution to poverty is a job. The problem is, there aren't any around except minimum wage jobs at fast food joints. That's not a solution.

Please pass the pesticides bylaw prohibiting cosmetic use of harmful chemicals BEFORE SUMMER.

The City should determine why we have a shortage of doctors- get those who are not practicing to give up their OHIP numbers- depends what you are going to spend the money on to recruit doctors.

We need the trees to combat the pollution here. However trees along streets and houses can lead to roots in sewers or cracks in foundations so trees in parks or wind breaks. In Hamilton we have too much response for emergencies and competition. I called for a drunk on a sidewalk. I had an ambulance that was adequate but a fire rescue truck and three firefighters responded. Little over kill. The dispatcher should be able to direct the call to the appropriate service by interpreting the info provided and direct questions. As for social assistance there is too much and I know people who know the system and never work. Too much money and it is spent on drugs. People in jail get start up money and how many times per year.

Trees are the life blood of a community. Hamilton does not have enough trees. However, I feel the trees currently being planted are not done so properly. Not enough attention is paid to the initial installation. Proper tree planting / installation is extremely important as it is the difference between a healthy tree lasting for generations versus one that struggles and eventually dies.

The state of landscape maintenance to our parks and open areas is deplorable. Not enough staff and budget is allocated to landscape maintenance. Increased levels of care to existing landscape including lawns and gardens are a must if Hamilton is to maintain a "cared for" appearance. "

Start cutting the grass on the Linc and the Kenilworth access and other roadways--our once proud city looks like a slum with these properties not being looked after.

Overall I am for ideas that will attract people to our city as well as projects that maintain or improve the environment. The exception is the traffic island lower beds. These I feel are a hazard as they reduce visibility of oncoming traffic.

Anti-poverty initiatives and supporting the arts community (you'll find a large intersection here, I suspect) is extremely important. Again, cooperation with the social service agencies in town (especially those who are trying to initiate partnerships with the city) would benefit everyone!

While I think 300,000 is too high a sum for shrub bed maintenance, I believe you should be able to come up with a smaller amount that you can put towards repairing shrub beds that are in serious need of repair. As for the traffic islands, the only traffic islands I notice are those on Park dale and they are quite beautiful. They have maintained their whiteness even amongst all that traffic. If this is what the current budget allows, then it looks fine but I haven't noticed other islands. My suggestion is to use plants that are low maintenance or flowering bushes, crown vetch, for example that doesn't need lots of water, pruning or planting to keep costs down. As for the parks...UGH ...have you seen Gage Park? Its gardens are just NASTY! How could the City be so negligent? What about having a 'friends of Gage Park' or something to do plantings or have kids in high school learn a trade by engaging them in learning about horticulture?

Creative solutions to tackle poverty should be a priority for the City of Hamilton.

Before raising taxes do a brutally thorough audit and bring the hammer down on all waste of resources, including inordinately high salaries and bonuses. Use our money with extreme care before taking more from us for what should already be provided with efficiency and quality.

Money needs to be put in to accessible transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities we have been hearing for years that this was going to happen and that the gas tax was going to be used for this but it has not taken place

Adopting out the island flowerbeds or volunteers for planting and/or supplying plant materials will cut down on costs. People who might complain about an area that has been neglected might be able to be persuaded to find the resources to look after the area. Another note to subsidize people to prevent poverty will lead to more poverty. For example: people let school feed their children lunch so they don't have to, so the children don't have lunch on weekends. It is a crutch that people will not be able to stand without. Some people aren't interested in getting off social assistance because they won't get the same benefits with working a minimum wage job.

Please look at Darts adjusting their criteria for passengers as there are many individuals in the community that have no transportation until Darts changes the criteria for them – and the name – DARTS...please come up with something better – reminds me of a bar room game.

I am concerned about items 2, 4 & 5. Previously there was funding for these programs, now there is not. Hamilton needs to address spending and ensure there is no deficit. I do not feel that I should be punished with further taxes, if someone moves out of the city, and the burden has to be carried by myself, figuratively speaking. Flowers are very important at the entrances to our city, as you don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Hamilton has a "black" aura around it from pollution and needs as much help as possible to brighten it up. Also, many people have little or no hope in our community, and things of beauty help immensely. I would like to see Hamilton remain fiscally responsible, and a beautiful place at the same time.

If you spent money on attracting economic development, there will be a greater supply of jobs, therefore poverty levels should go down. As for all the questions relating to city beautification, I support spending more money on these programs, but perhaps we could promote getting the larger companies to sponsor these to an extent to reduce the costs.

HMMM- FUNNY HOW VISUAL ARTS AND SPORTING CAME BEFORE POVERTY AND THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS. I ONE OF THE 30,000 WITHOUT A DR. FOR 4 YRS. PERHAPS BETTER CULTURAL IMAGE WOULD ATTRACT AND RETAIN MORE DRS.

I have had the opportunity to run the rail trail and climb the Wentworth stairs, and they are both wonderful assets for our city. The rail trail should be better maintained (with clear markings for KM along the trail, and perhaps city police cycling it as part of their route). We do have a wonderful health care system, and as a patient at St. Joes I've been very pleased with the care I've received. I think the doctor shortage DOES cause people to head for the ER rather than their doctor, and also a lack of 24 hour walk in clinics causes people to make the choice to wait hours in the ER for non-essential treatment.

We should be working to not only attract GPs to the area, but also teaching people when to use services like the ER.

Everyone in the city should have the same level of service in fire protection. It is a life saving program and it should be no different than road, parks, dog catching etc.

In terms of the beautification of Hamilton, it seems pointless to spend money in one area to attract the film industry and tourism and not in another area to keep the city looking presentable. I believe these areas are very closely related. Not to mention having a beautiful city might inspire people to recycle and pursue other areas that will keep the city beautiful in the long term.

Hamilton's tree stock is severely strained and cannot be taken for granted. Major efforts should be undertaken to manage what is there, replace what will be lost over time (not once it's gone) and protect what is here. Many communities have much stronger tree protection resources and bylaws than here. Finally, the planting of native species should be encouraged.

To be more environmentally and economically sustainable, low maintenance native species should be used rather than "decorative" varieties. Also, please stay away from "sponsored" gardens that make every island an advertisement (like Burlington).

This could improve Hamiltonian's pride in their City (and their fitness) immensely and I support it wholeheartedly.

Try to support neighborhoods by trying to encourage the growth of neighborhood associations – possibly a “get involved” attitude coming from city hall would help. Also, a small amount of funding would also go a long way. Frankly, Hamilton needs to clean itself up – and unfortunately it won't happen without money going into it. I think Hamilton should bite the bullet and raise the residential tax rate and put the funding into improving our city. (Not the industrial or commercial taxes though, as it would make Hamilton a less attractive place to do business and thus lower the tax base). If this city were cleaner and nicer to look at, people would be 1) more inclined to live here and 2) more inclined to start up a business here.

The whole "Tree" program is very confusing. After seeing the web page I phoned and was told that the program was not being funded. I went out and bought my own tree for \$200 and had it planted. Then I found out that there was funding only for trees planted next to the sidewalk. I have already planted my tree there - that is where I needed the shade. Now I am out \$200 & the cost of having it planted.

I do not believe that any more of my tax dollar should go to subsidize the impoverished people of Hamilton. I already begrudge the large percentage of my taxes going to social services etc. I think we should value the taxpayers who are the contributors, and try to attract more of the same - by providing services etc. for them.

Hamilton has become a city of social services which in itself is not a big problem. I work in the social work field ...however there is awareness about poverty and spending more money to alleviate it is not what is needed. We need jobs and not minimum wage jobs. remember low incomes means low tax base for city hall and income taxes ....there has been millions spent in the city of Hamilton through Skippy funding for shelters and the such and guess what we still have the homeless...how about the low income earners and the middle class people who are struggling to make ends meet.

I would like to encourage business to sponsor traffic islands, rather than spend more money on them. I would rather have to money used to help transit, the homeless and the poor. Again I would like to see company and groups sponsor certain shrub beds in the city.

I would support any initiative to make Hamilton more livable or to improve its image. I think this is one of the issues that are very important to making Hamilton better. More trees, more color the traffic islands is a good idea, we need more ideas like it. Bottom line, many people do not want to live in many parts of downtown Hamilton they way it is now. Even the thought of living in Hamilton turns people off, just because of the image that Hamilton has in the imaginations of people. That image has to change before anything else can happen in this city.

Replant and manage the rich tree resource in this City. This is one of the best features in the City. A rich green canopy cleans the air and makes this city so livable. I support anything the City can do to eliminate poverty in this community. The City has a wonderful opportunity to tackle this problem with great courage.

For beauty, perhaps look to a volunteer or adoption program.

I live near Gage Park, and to be blunt the shrub beds that used to be full and beautiful are now ugly, and full of weeds and litter. The shrub program would be great boosts to help residents of this neighborhood feel pride in the park again. The same goes for the gardens there that once were so well maintained. And I have not had a doctor for some three years. Please, PLEASE recruit more general practioners to the city. They are urgently required.

In terms of recycling, I notice at the dump people are not allowed to pick up material dropped of by someone else, for example building supplies. It's called scavenging. Wouldn't it help the city if someone else wanted the "garbage" to take and reuse it, rather than have it sit in a landfill? It was the same for big garbage pick up day. I'm sure half the stuff didn't even make it to the site as it was "scavenged" over the night.

Our trees are our most beautiful feature - look at how beautiful Hamilton looked at the World Cycling Race held a few years ago. We are losing them at an alarming rate and the 'trimming' of dead wood has hundreds of trees looking like mutant growths. We need more trees, a wide variety, and sooner rather than later.

We also need the flower beds back to their old standards. The trees and plants do more to clean the air than an anti-idling law that will take years to be effective and properly enforced. The problem with the Ambulance service is the ridiculous wait times they have to endure at the hospital setting. St Joe's will not allow an ambulance to leave until the patient has been seen which sometimes takes hours. Not a productive use.

Gage Park is not used to its potential. It is one of our biggest and oldest parks and it is in a very sad state. It needs new planting of flowers and trees, who cares about road medians. I can only drive by those flowers but when I am taking a walk in the park I want to see nature. What about a week long winter festival at Gage park, with an ice rink, snow castle area, games, booths with hot chocolate and beaver tails. Many private companies would gladly support this event like Tim Horton's and Pizza Pizza who could have booths as well selling and advertising their products. A family festival unlike the other festivals that attract hoards of teens.

Safety is a priority; as a result of amalgamation all "Hamiltonians" should have equal access to services.

Revamp the application process of the social service programs that we offer to reduce the incidences of abuse of these services. Or, we could limit the time that a person could be on social assistance (Welfare) so that the assistance is used to help someone get back on their feet and find themselves a job, not become lazy and suck off of tax payers. You could then use the unspent portions of the social assistance to pave our roads and reduce taxes for those of us who work hard and never use these social services. Instead of providing flowers in our road medians, take that funding and use it in our parks.

Here are my thoughts: 2 way streets, Shops, Hotels, Parks, Restaurants, Arts, Festivals, Trees, Innovative transit system

First impressions are so important. Ensure that all parks are properly maintained. Our neighborhood park (Carter) is in disrepair. The play equipment is ancient, rusted and is covered in graffiti. I cannot take my daughter there.

The hybrid buses are a great idea. I still don't want to ride a bus. Too average, boring. Personally, I believe that with all of this city's existing natural beauty, the focus and priority should be on tourism.

Downtown ban on dollar stores, sex shops, payday loan shops. And finally, give people some incentive to fix up their homes, especially the ones you see when driving into the city.

Any money spent on reorganizing should not be spent, until it has been determined if something is really broken

These services should be area rated to elevate rural services up to city service levels if those residents in that area wish equality of service.

Ambulance service puzzles me. Again we go to good management, I watched recently ambulance service picking up the patient on the property where you have to walk up the stairs to get to the house which is fine except the two attendants were about 130 pounds 5'4" ladies who lost the patient on the way down I'm sure glad it wasn't me

Tackling poverty requires a multi level support system. Government must be a part of this  
In regards to Parks, currently there are no leash free areas in the city core and the by-law appears to have been written with the intent that it would be impossible to create a leash free area in the downtown parks in spite of the policy, as I understand it, that the city should have at least one leash free park per ward. The by-law should be amended to make leash free areas in city parks practical.

The deterioration of the islands in the middle of streets (particularly the grand planting pot at the Delta Block) is a sad indication of the city in whole. Full plots planted with brilliant colors and foliage make the city seem beautiful even in a dirty area.

The Arts in Hamilton have been a victim of the economy. More funds should be dedicated to the Arts and Arts promotion. Hamilton needs an adequate COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE - approximately 200-300 seat theatre with proper technology, fly gallery, etc. Not unionized so Community Theatre and other groups have a decent space to perform in that they can afford to perform in.

Gage Park is the city's gem. Hamilton's Central Park, or Parc Mont-Royal! More funding is desperately needed to keep this gem shining. It is currently in terrible shape and needs major help. As does: Victoria Park (planned development) and most other parks across the lower city. It seems that the City of Hamilton often ignores the Lower city parks and gives all funding to new or mountain parks.

Flowers in traffic islands are nice, but we need food and plants that bring health instead of using trucks to clean the streets hire the homeless or those on welfare at a decent rate for these street cleaning tasks. Those that cannot work may still like to help green and clean the city and could do with some supplemental funds to help them eat. We need to stop using power equipment like street cleaners, and weed whackers that pollute and thereby allowing more people to work.

Fight Poverty!

Please reconsider Lower City Park funding!

We should start summer beach and park cleaning programs and use students to clean up the derelict buildings, in an apprentice training program like the threshold school of building. Explore carbon air cleaning processes.

The city should offer advertisement space on traffic islands at a cost of the maintenance for that specific site. Companies would be able to promote their business as well as supporting the city. Landscaping companies could have a contract for the city parks (shrub maintenance). Instead of monetary payment they could design and maintain the area (with restrictions) with a sign telling the community the company and contact.

Make life better for women and children; focus on downtown; make Hamilton services equitable and sustainable.

Flowers in traffic islands go unnoticed by the majority of people. In fact, I've seen prostitutes and vandals abusing the islands. Also, drivers & pedestrians regularly toss garbage into the flowers. There are an unsettling number of massage parlors (they really are brothels) in this city. Look at the last pages in VIEW magazine to see the problem. Why is there no legislation/bylaw preventing these places from operating? I'd like to see expanded support of the 'anti-crack' police initiative, and local municipal programs such as the 'Computer Access Program' in Main-Hess mall (supported by City Housing). Lastly, there should be a more stringent & cohesive screening process for potential tenants of subsidized housing (crack dealers, etc.)

Poverty is one of the most important issues facing Hamilton. We should carefully explore our options in meeting this challenge. Hamilton should also vigorously lobby the provincial and federal governments to address this appalling situation.

\*FLOWER ISLANDS\* Excuse my emphasis here, but as a gardener I can't resist. I support flower islands. However, there is no need to have expensive flowering annuals that must be replanted each year. Why can't the flower islands be full of hardy, attractive perennials that require little maintenance and will grow for years without having to be replaced? Why use rocks when tough, drought-resistant grasses would be far more attractive? There is a middle road available, take it!

This city is still called 'The Garden City' which is sort of humorous considering the last few years have seen massive parkland elimination and destruction. Apart from Red Hill, the Good Samaritan project that has destroyed a park/green space on Main is abhorrent. Building needs to take place on parking lots and brown fields.

The Brude Trail needs to be upgraded with pedestrian crossings on Beckett Drive and 'gateway' entrances so that people actually know where it intersects with the city.

Funding needs to go into the city and downtown and the green fields need to stay green. Mountain dwellers should pay an additional fee for their water that needs to be pumped uphill vs. city dwellers. We live in two cities; city and mountain"

Allocate resources to attract businesses - they will bring jobs and poverty will take care of it self.



Focus on making the city attractive for business and their employees - that is where the money will be."

The appearance of the city is extremely important. The reduction in the number of the flower beds has been so disheartening to residents and a negative impact on visitors. For God's sake with a billion dollar plus budget, surely a tiny percentage for flower beds is appropriate. The lessening of support for the flower beds in recent years is a classic example of extreme short-sightedness on the part of past councils, a civic embarrassment. Wake up and smell the roses, or the petunias or whatever can be put in them!

I would rather support programs similar to Montreal wherein natural growth is allowed to thrive rather than spending resources on "beautifying" roadsides and areas not in pedestrian use.

Adopt an island could save money - only one Parks staff to ensure things are done safely from a traffic perspective.

Type specific recycling containers and large propaganda signs to identify where it is so it is easy. Then it will be done.

Petition the appropriate authorities to allow doctors trained elsewhere to practice!

Poverty can be helped through increased job prospects. We all know poverty is a problem - publicizing it even more DOES NOT solve the issue. Bring jobs to the city; improve downtown core, brown fields, etc. DO IT NOW.

Bring more rail service to Hamilton. Scrap planting flowers in medians. Get more jobs here so we can stop moving to other cities for work and driving very far to our workplaces! I finally moved to Etobicoke to work and had to come back here due to stress and a heart condition called Pericarditis. I think I got it from particulates in the air from the commute to & from Hamilton. Planting shrubs and trees is better for our environment.

My employer does not recycle ANYTHING! We throw out 3 bins of PAPER every day! We employ over 300 & do not recycle bottles cans or scrap from our manufacturing processes because it costs too much too! TAX all bottled drinks & packed foods. Open spaces for planting food every summer! Stop giving \$\$ 2MacMaster! Ban SMOKING!

I said yes to reinstating various budgets, but I realize that not everything can be reinstated. I think supporting the arts in this community and recognizing our heritage is very important. This city has such amazing history and it's worth recognizing.

More doctors would be attracted to a city with a nicer downtown that did not smell of pollution, and have an awful looking waterfront. I think recycling bins in parks will likely just get vandalized along with everything else, but I think they should be used during all special events, i.e., Gage Park music festivals, Locke street festivals, etc. Hamilton has lots of parks and trails; let's make some of them leash-free.

Tree planting is fine though if in people's front yards, the city should more take responsibility for maintenance and for roots in sewer laterals. Also, what is with the silly law about no parking pads if under the canopy of a city tree? Lots of houses in this neighborhood have no driveways but could except for this silly

How the city looks has a huge impact on how residents and visitors feel about the city - no city is viewed as successful, vibrant, a good place to be if it is "down at heel". Gravel in the traffic islands, dead unkempt shrubs and diminishing urban forest are counter productive and a huge drain on civic pride / city enjoyment. Please let's fix it!

In order to attract more business and professionals to Hamilton, we need to enhance and promote the greenest and outdoor playground (trail system development and promotion is essential). Also, investing in beautifying the streets with trees and plants will encourage people to be out and walk in their neighborhoods.

Maintaining the public areas is important. The planting at city hall each year is awesome and should continue. as far as the poverty level goes, it used to be that if you were on welfare (now social assistance I guess) you had to put in so many hours of community service for the city, this should be reinstated and it would probably give some persons the incentive to actually look for a job and help keep the city clean.

Lead by example - start recycling every where. Our hockey rinks are a dismal example of City facilities where recycling is nonexistent.

You're still cutting down trees at an alarming rate. I get the sense that it's easier to remove it than look after it. We've had several large trees removed in the last few years and not replaced. We shouldn't have to request replacement and any tree removal should be analyzed in a way to ensure that its removal isn't just about cost of maintaining vs. liability.

I think money should be put into promoting the arts to tourists, but rather than new money, this should be placed in existing materials. The little story about Hamilton in Le Devoir last fall emphasized our small museums, galleries, and arts scene -- but does Tourism Hamilton promote these as much as Jungle Cat World?

The City has a program to fund planting of flowers in traffic islands across the city. - I only support it if perennials are used instead of annuals.

Why does the city plant annuals every year on public medians? It would save money and free resources if the city planted perennials instead.

Redevelop the waterfront; continue with the efforts to beautify the city. Attract world class sporting events.

As well, make the city more attractive to live in. Provide free city wide internet wireless access. Provide tax incentives for people who redevelop the exterior of homes in areas of the city that 'look' deteriorated. Ask yourself (realistically) - Why would I want to move downtown? And then do something about it.

Traffic islands -- plant hardy, low growing green shrubs, not annuals.

Poverty levels -- Burlington, Oakville and other municipalities in the GTA send all their poor people here. Those municipalities who have no poor people, or who ship them to us to overburden our system, should be making transfer payments to us, so we can house, feed and clothe them. Intake question for Social Benefits office -- where did you move here from?"

The Waterfront trail is amazing...please look at extending it.

Maintenance of our parks, trails, and trees is essential-- trees in particular as they increase property values, provide neighborhoods with a livable, healthy, wholesome feeling, and take years before these benefits are seen. A tree planting program needs to be in effect for years before these benefits are seen-- the city's role should be to take on long-term initiatives such as this.

All of the priorities listed above are crucial. In fact, I don't know if you'll get much useful info from this form, since I'm sure the department can't afford to support them all. Still, I would like to see "A Better Place to Live" be made a high priority in city spending. Jobs will follow.

Tree planting should be coordinated by volunteers etc. Not city spending money. I'm sure there would be many willing people available to help out.

With respect to the islands and flowers, have the community or business sponsor the planting and have the city do it. This covers all costs.

About the shrubs: Why does it cost so much? Could there not be community task forces that take care of this and have the city donate money to other upgrades?

There should be recycle bins at the parks as well as garbage. And if there is, why does it cost so much?

Poverty has more to do then what jobs are out there. We can study this to death and always have differing opinions. There are a lot of issues to tackle here."

Higher taxes lead to a more livable city. Low taxes only lead to increasing the disparity between the rich and the poor, not to help the poor to thrive. Hamilton has an alarming poverty rate, this

I also support local community gardens as a way of improving resident's diets through locally grown produce and further developing these gardens as green spaces throughout the community. These projects would further strengthen the local community and reduce waste. Think some initiatives here are 'Quality of Life' priorities, while others are essential services. I think the two should be thought about differently. In terms of things like flower beds and shrub maintenance, I think these are things we should do when the budget allows. Alternatively, we could find ways to support these initiatives without necessarily funding them completely out of the city's coffers.

I would support a program in which individual communities are encouraged to maintain local parks, and flower beds. I would imagine the city could also engage the private sector for in-kind resources in return for some form of recognition, such as plaques.

Take a look at the islands on Barton Street that were put in over the past 24 months. They are smashed now so this was a total waste of taxpayer money.

I am all for helping people who live below the poverty line. For example, someone who has a home, pays taxes, but has little income should get a property tax break. I am against contracting this kind of thing out to other agencies. People who live below the poverty line should get a free bus pass. Free dental would be a help.

More colorful website for fire dept. i.e.: station locations, pictures of apparatus, and stations.

Depot-sites on recycling as I mentioned above would save the \$300k you'd spend recycling in parks and the money from the cans would likely go to boosting low income earners funds, well the ones that would collect the recycling anyway, or schools could be invited to raise funds by collecting all the recyclables in a park.

Instead of spending money to maintain park shrubbery, could you plant native and hardy species that require less maintenance, such long grasses, wildflowers and local bushes and trees, in a composition like a Japanese garden with paths and rocks?

Think you could enhance the city park's gardens without using a full budget by soliciting volunteer organizations to work the parks for you. Each spring, countless urban gardeners have armloads of extra tubers, seeds and cuttings that they could place in the city gardens. Sure, the look would be a little rough, but it'd be much better than the golden-rod and milkweed gardens that currently occupy much of the Princess point area.

The money saved from the gardening project could be used to phase-in a recycling program. There should be recycling outside of shops and retail outlets even before the parks. When you buy a bottled water in a mall, in Westdale, or downtown, you have to carry the thing home to recycle (and how many)

It's great to plant trees and shrubs around Hamilton, but who looks after their long-term health? I've noted trees that are planted in the middle of asphalt medians and can't possibly survive. Seems like a poor investment if the likelihood of survival is so slim.

Poverty is clearly a problem in Hamilton and this needs to be addressed with education and public health programming aimed at children.

Poverty reduction and improvement to social services should be the number one priority for the city. A focus on health and education should be close behind.

I think the tree program needs to be better publicized, I know of several people within my neighborhood would like a tree, but were unaware this program existed.

I think we should also consider making centralized collection areas in each neighborhood, where people can donate necessities, such as food and blankets on a continuous basis for the various shelters in the city.

The city really needs to develop 'low/zero maintenance' approaches to its gardens. There are lots of ways to do this, although the up front costs (say, for perennials instead of annuals) may be slightly higher. I would strongly advise the city to start planning gardens that require a minimum of long-term maintenance! Also, more needs to be done to incorporate local residents into planning and maintaining local park gardens.

Hamilton's high poverty rate needs to be a major focus of Hamilton's planning! I also strongly support the City appealing to higher levels of government for additional assistance - this problem is not just Hamilton's problem!

I enjoy the flowers in the traffic islands, but I think native species or perennials should be investigated that will tolerate the conditions to reduce costs. Planting annuals every year is very expensive. I am totally against using pesticides on the plants in these islands.

Property Tax rates in West Hamilton are absurdly high. Some re-adjustment needs to occur here.

Another serious issue is the poverty cycle which is currently entrenched in Hamilton. Enough frittering away limited funding on ""exploration"" of the issue and put resources into frontline services. We know what will work: street level programs to identify catalysts in the at-risk youth community and case manage/ 'coach' them through the requirements (i.e. various community services) to reach their goals. Something like Living Rock but providing more of a whole picture solution for clients and with an effective intake process and follow-up process. School boards/education providers need to be strongly encouraged to create effective early start

I believe that the median flower program is well worth it when people come from out of town to see me they are always impressed with the flowers. Who knows it could be part of a strategy to get business to invest in our city too. I believe that regardless of the tax increase we have a duty and obligation to help the people in our city that are below the poverty line! 20 percent is unacceptable.

Parks: we need to support native trees and plants, not flower gardens. We don't need "beautiful" traffic islands, just ground cover e.g. vinca is OK (our roads are ugly in any case). We don't need to attract more people at poverty level: Hamilton must raise its socioeconomic status to compete with Burl/Oak/Miss. We need people friendly streets, not 5 lane throughways. Police/fire/EMS seem to get enough already...keep a lid on it. Recycling in park: it's a lot of dog poop anyway, not much recyclable.

I support maintaining current levels because I believe current resources could be put to better use substituting attractive, hardy, low-maintenance native plants for wasteful and dowdy annuals. If I see another petunia I will die of boredom.

Having a vibrant cultural community is vital to attracting new business. The city must be clean and inviting. Please read the book "Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell, which highlights how important the little things are. I suggest having small contracts for the maintaining the grass cutting along all the highways leading into the city and along the exit ramps off and onto the highways. Clean up the city and remove graffiti. Have cultural centre at the waterfront. Make it key to the city, tear down Jackson Square and put a huge park downtown, redevelop St Marks Church for more office, download more to private enterprise ( housing), forcing them to pay for Auchmar restoration, housing studies and outdoor rinks. Sell Ivor Wynne and Pinky Lewis.

I think any extra resources should be spent on improving the trails, not promoting them. They are already a huge asset; if you improve them further they will promote themselves.

Traffic island flower beds are a very visible way to show residents and visitors the 'greener side of Hamilton' and have a very positive and immediate impact - this program should be continued with the support of private and public sector donors.

I can't agree with enforcement of fines for garbage in excess of the bag limit - this will lead to much increased illegal dumping. Awareness of the green box program needs to continue (the initial ads were great), and awareness programs in schools should continue (or be implemented if they don't exist). Tree planting must also continue at current or expanded levels.

Social assistance and Doctor recruitment should be a provincial government responsibility, but are important.

The answer is not continuation of adding resources we need to look at real solutions for real problems. We need more fire, police and ambulance shrubs and trees are important and they make our community a nice community but you have trouble maintaining what we have

Don't get me started on trees - like the one in my front yard that moans, cracks and one day will fall through my living room or take out the hydro pole in front. I've called and they "trimmed" the branches but did not address the main issue, the tree is in dire need to be removed. If it falls through my house the City of Hamilton will be paying any and all damages incurred.

Planting flowers in traffic islands is costly, with little real value or benefit.

A recycling awareness campaign and recycling by-laws are needed for private, public and business sectors.

Offer training, education and incentives to help people to help themselves. Don't waste money by increasing welfare!

Increasing taxes is not an option, increase efficiency; eliminate ineffective/inefficient programs and departments to fund your initiatives. Don't destroy the city with 'socialist' programs!

To make it a better place to live, we need to prioritize development of Parks & Rec for people with disabilities. Hamilton's record in this area is shameful!

Hamilton must position itself as an environmental leader to fight our poor image – green initiatives are welcomed.

The doctor issues should be addressed provincially and federally. The same with the poverty issue...which admittedly is ridiculous.

THE CITY CAN FOOT THE BILL FOR SOME MEDICAL OR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE POOR. OR EVEN SPENDING SOME MONEY ON FIXING SOME OLD HOME OR OFFICE FOR SHELTER. BUT I AM OPPOSED TO PAYING FOR OUTRIGHT WELFARE AND HOUSING FOR ABLE BODIED PEOPLE!

Again I will stress that taxes are too high, so basically I do not support any tax increase. As far as I am concerned if the City can afford to provide new a service that's fine, if not than it does not happen. I do not agree with spending money you do not have, and it should not be put on our shoulders. Maybe an idea would be that households making let's say as an example over \$150,000 or more get a tax increase???? As you know this would not go over well. It's easy to say tax increase if you want these services, but a wage increase should accompany this.

MORE POLICE PRESENCE EVERYWHERE. CLEAN UP DOWNTOWN; SPEND YOUR FLOWER MONEY THERE. MAKE DOWNTOWN LOOK STRONG, TEAR DOWN, AND RE-BUILD. THIS IS WHERE YOU BEGIN AND IT SPREADS FROM THERE. YOU HAVE CREATED OTHER ISSUES AROUND THE CITY IN REGARDS TO DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH, BUT DOWNTOWN HAS TO BE RE-DEVELOPED. IT LOOKS OLD AND UGLY.

Flowers in traffic islands should be paid for 100% by SPONSORSHIP. This should be an income stream for the city.

Controlling graffiti and vandalism with more beat cops, especially in parks and schoolyards, is a priority.

Floral displays are great, I think the city should offer opportunities to local business to enhance and thus subsidize the cost by advertising, designing and perhaps maintaining the islands

Increase beautification programs. They make our city look great.

Increase Capital Budget for Capital projects. Quit patching the problem.

Increase Social program spending to alleviate homelessness, poverty. These problems will not go away just by feeding the hungry. Embrace training, education and employment programs.

Increase spending for new technologies to reduce environment pollution and greenhouse gasses. In addition, tax-breaks to people who update their homes.

Increase spending in local, global awareness. We are just as beautiful as Niagara Falls, people around the world need to know that. Increase tourism programs and 'double-decker busses full of tourists around the bay' ideas.

We need to get more businesses in the area to provide a better tax base for the community. House taxes in Victoria, BC are much lower than they are here and property values are significantly higher.

Work to ensure that the police are clear in terms of what their responsibilities are and members of the force who are unable to maintain that standard are eliminated.

Encourage more individual & business support of funding for the island plantings.

INCREASE BUS SERVICE DRAMATICALLY. USE A MODEL LIKE THAT IN EDINBURGH SCOTLAND. MASS TRANSIT/BIKE LANES ETC MUST BE PURSUED. RECRUIT PEOPLE AND TRAIN THEM FROM WITHIN THE CITY, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE POOR. REAL JOBS, NOT HANDOUTS. STOP SUBSIDIZING THE PEOPLE THAT CREATE THE PROBLEMS IN SUBSIDIZED HOUSING. CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE SUFFICIENT, WHY ELSE ARE THEY COMING HERE FROM OUT OF TOWN. WE NEED MANY MORE POLICE OFFICERS. STOP THE PARKING TAG NIGHTMARE DOWNTOWN, IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SHOP MAKE IT CONVENIENT,,,HOW ABOUT A BOOT MARKET TYPE SELLING ZONE @ OLD BUS TERMINAL-REBECCA ST, COMBINE WITH INCREASED FARMERS MARKET AND THEN A ZONE OF WAREHOUSE OUTLETS IN OLD LISTER BLOCK AREA(KEEP FACADE REBUILD REST)

As a senior citizen who finds it increasingly difficult to keep up with taxes I feel that subsidizing recreational activities arts and sports are not priorities when food heat hydro and medications are needed. Once a person reaches 70 an age exemption would help on home taxes.

EMS is important. This includes the police. The police are paid a good wage as far as I am concerned. Yet the level of service we receive from them does not show this. The police department and their staff need to be better educated on all levels of the laws and bylaws to service the public efficiently.

The flowered traffic islands May - Sept look great -- The rest of the year they look terrible. Fill them in and spend the money on trees and parks.

I don't believe that if you put all these types of recycling cans in parks it will be used to the full benefit to the money you want to spend. Try spending a smaller amount to see if it will even help or make people recycle.

Reinstate the traffic light program but move towards offering small businesses the opportunity to advertise by sponsoring a traffic light. Then the program will be self-sufficient and you can help small business simultaneously. And allow them to pick the colors of flowers so that they match their business. Not sure if this will work for shrub beds as well but maybe the program revenue could help to allocate resources to shrub beds as well.

Some people believe that we have sufficient services and pay enough taxes. I am not in the position to pay more taxes but we also need the services and cannot afford to have them reduced or have them with a fee attached. We have more people living in Hamilton yet our services have diminished considerably. We need more police/fir/by-law people the waiting times for these services should be minimal. Also I believe the city should contact the Province and Federal Governments with regard to Health Care that is where our money goes and the health care is falling drastically.

The road islands should be planted with perennials and trees. The best example is along Golf Links road. This would be better than the annual flowers and would require less upkeep and water. How about some trees in the islands for shade? Make the community more greener and the health professionals may be drawn naturally to the area.

Waste reduction - first go contact all the houses that were given the Green Carts and don't use them. WHY? Then start a program where you are allowed ONLY a certain amount and then you have to pay extra. You can ask and beg -- but a lot of people won't do anything until there is a \$\$\$ involved.

The poor - The City of Hamilton has a LONG history of doing very little for their poorer citizens. Let's get working on this. Stop avoiding them and their communities.

The city should take care of planted trees to prevent their death.

In order to provide more flowers in the medians without increasing the current funds allocated, why not ask for corporate or other sponsors, and have them donate funds for one or more areas in exchange for a sign indicating their sponsorship?

EMS should have been left privatized. While I know there are legitimate cases, I'm concerned that Hamilton attracts those in poverty with a rich program to help them as reflected in our taxes. It is a fine balancing act to determine how much to continue to spend on those in poverty.

We're only as strong as our weakest link. Let's end poverty and homelessness in Hamilton. Ever considered a micro-credit program?

Spend taxes on revenue producing projects. Get disabled people on provincial benefits faster and of welfare. Drastically improve ambulance system by adding more advanced care paramedics without city paying for training as there are many willing to pay for the training themselves. Add new ambulances to improve response times.

I like the idea of having businesses pay for the flowers in the islands.



Traffic Islands should be planted with native salt tolerant self maintaining perennials. Staff time would be reduced significantly while maintaining the attractive quality of the islands and promoting native ecology.

I would like to see a return to the traffic island flower beds. I am not a horticulturalist but I do not understand why perennial flowers/plants could not be planted and they would only need pruning. I have seen the tulip bulbs taken out of city flower beds every year. Why the expense? They could stay in a couple of years.

Arts and culture are another economic sector ripe for development. Partnering between business and arts programming requires minimal funding and can bring exponential returns. Focus more on ongoing activities than big, one-weekend festivals featuring the same few artists over and over again.

I would support higher taxes to standardize service levels...but not to have STRICTLY full time staff. Volunteer fire-fighters are an important feature in our community and would be wasted should we choose not to utilize them.

I just wanted to emphasize the importance of creating a wheelchair accessible baseball facility for the physically challenged citizens of Hamilton. I believe creating such a park for the needs of the physically challenged would not only provide an excellent meeting and recreational area for those in Hamilton, it would also bring in citizens from outlying towns and cities that do not have such facilities. It is a much needed and important facility for the citizens of Hamilton who would no doubt benefit from having their own baseball facilities and area to call their own. Please consider this in your plans for the city's future.

I don't necessary agree with some of the above questions. I feel items like poverty, doctors and EMS are the responsibility of the province. These items are easily transferable from city to city. We do not get enough funding to support them. I feel most times these issues are just pushed from one city to another.

We should focus on the community initiatives and encouraging people to work, play and live in Hamilton."

The way the survey asks about the amount of money use 500,000 for flowers/bushes looks bad when you show the poverty question next to it. But what does it work out to pennies? Per household to look like Poverty is a separate issue why mixed in with flowers. This is where you could be asking about golf course. Why does it seem Hamilton city golf course is the only golf course NOT making money? We travel to other city's golf courses and marvel at them. You chased us away from Chedoke. Kings Forest one of the nicest courses in S. Ont. starting to fall apart. MISMANAGEMENT, or is it for more housing if it loses money. Poverty need new ideas lots of money spend, never seems to fix any of the big issues. Work/housing drug abuses/lack of education an advanced care paramedic on every ambulance two new 24 hour.12 lead ECGs, capnography for children. Reduce crime by moving jail and halfway houses away from downtown. Help people on welfare get on provincial benefits, encourage unemployed to head west.

Improve EMS system it is far to slow. It has to many primary care paramedics only advanced care paramedics should be hired. More ambulances should be staffed all vacant jobs should be filled with advanced care paramedics until primary care medics are phased out. Place paramedics in hospitals to assume care of patients until RN's can take over in order to put ambulance immediately back on road.

Decreasing response times is urgently needed--3 minutes or less is desirable and worthy of funding

Do something with your transit system.

We must maintain our streets. Put the flowers back in place. Also, some of the streets looked absolutely disgusting this summer. One good example of a street that looked terrible is Upper Wentworth between Mohawk and Stone church. The islands and boulevards were full of weeds (at times a foot high). I was very embarrassed when I took some family that was visiting to Lime ridge Mall and this is what they saw. Time to clean up and make our streets look better. Funny how it seems that the streets in Westdale never lost their flower beds. If the program cannot be reinstated completely then perhaps we can rotate on a yearly basis the streets that get the flowers.

Traffic islands flowers - is this amount a little too high? Can we look at other options? E.g. Local garden centers would probably love to donate flowers instead of free advertising in these flower islands...Was this even considered??

Encourage businesses to green up the city and take over maintaining islands. Not paying the city to do it but actually taking ownership for islands in their area.

NOTE - HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRES PAY NO TAXES RESULTING HIGHER TAXES FOR THE TAX PAYER. HAMILTON HAS ALSO BECOME A DUMPING GROUND FOR THE POOR BY CITIES LIKE TORONTO. HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF SENDING THEM BACK TO THEIR CITY OF ORIGIN? OR HAVE QUEENS PARK PAY MORE FOR THE SERVICES AND DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR EXCUSE THAT THEY CAN NOT TAX THE GTA MORE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE POOR ARE COMING FROM THE GTA.

This will sound cruel but we do enough for the poor. If we keep expanding our services for the poor all we will do is attract the poor. Why do I work? So I can pay my huge ever expanding property tax to a city that keeps expanding its social service to both the people on welfare and the poor. All Hamilton is doing is destroying the lives of us that just get by. Every year it's more, more taxes. Never does it go down or stay the same. Every year it's the social service costs are killing us. We need to do something to make this stop. Can we not tell the province that we have our share and we can not accept any more applicants? Maybe we should all withhold our taxes and let the city see what its like to try and get by.

Current dollars for median plantings should be spread out. Medians are currently over planted and overgrown by the end of the summer. Planting fewer flowers in more medians seems a good middle ground. Same with shrub bed maintenance. Can't we have minimal maintenance? Why does it have to be all or nothing?

RE: planting of flowers in traffic islands across the city - Why can't perennial plants be planted in these islands so that they come back year after year, which would reduce the cost of buying new plants every year?

By continually increasing property taxes, this adds to the problem of poverty reduction. The City can easily find operational efficiencies (get rid of Strategic Planning offices, find efficiency in the library system, re-classify the tax structure - should be an Urban/Rural split vs. taxing based on the community because there are urban centers in rural communities, etc., reduce number of managers/supervisors, find efficiencies in the Police service, etc)

I AM SICK OF MY TAXES BEING RAISED EVERY YEAR. MY WAGES DO NOT GO UP EVERY YEAR. COMPARED TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES WE PAY WAY TO MUCH TAXAND YOU WONDER WHY BUSSINESSES ARE PACKING UP AND LEAVING. IT WOULD BE NICE JUST ONCE TO SEE NO TAX INCREASE.

Why not push the sponsorship angle more for the flowers in the traffic islands so that we maintain these, but keep costs under control. Also, planting annuals is a waste of \$ -why not naturalize these, or use shrubs and ornamental grasses that are hardy, salt-resistant and perennial - this could save on costs as well. Sponsorship or volunteers to help with maintenance - a 'friends of' each park committee could help in each neighborhood"

I would love to see more flowers in medians and better shrub beds, but I know that the problem lies in motivating the existing workers to work harder. It would be better to privatize the maintenance of the beds, or hire summer students to work with mentors that have a good work ethic.

Hamilton has enough trees, just look down over the escarpment. If people want to have trees on their private property than they can pay for them themselves.

Hamilton has many low income residents because we are a city with many apartment buildings and lower cost housing (i.e. north end) so people with low income will live here as opposed to Burlington. Unless we tear those building down, we will always have this problem. This issue is to be tackled at the provincial and federal level, not the municipal. One thing the city can do for low income people is to invest in employment lands and create jobs.

Hamilton's system of trails is something that is underutilized and under promoted to residents and outsiders."

A bus that takes you to our beautiful trails would be helpful.

Trees should be planted on any spot possible (look how many more trees could be planted on the link? Why not invite the public to plant an extra tree from their garden on these spots. I have to kill each year some of them ... I have too many trees...no more room on my property. Shut the link down for a day to plant trees.. Even if the city provides them let people help saves cost on manpower (OK don't bring the union excuse in this)

A policy should be drafted for every tree cut down at least or 2 have to be planted (if not possible in same area, another area must receive one. Just look at some new housing developments clear-cut and then the plant 10 trees...yippee"

\$285,000.00 for island flower beds verses the same to feed the poor. I really like the idea of growing produce for the poverty stricken. Educate the number of students hired during the spring and summer months on the importance or agriculture verses horticulture. We are all about getting back to grass roots; this would be an excellent place to start. Think of what a program started in Hamilton could accomplish for sister municipalities. Could the city also establish small family plots on some of the expropriated lands that are currently sitting idle? There are many people that would like to grow their own vegetables but cannot due to restrictions of apartment living and small lots.

I am not opposed to traffic islands bearing flowers - but we need to find a way for individuals and corporate Hamilton to step-up and finance these. The way to help those in need (welfare) is to provide education and motivation. We need to offer a hand up - not a hand out.

I find it hard to believe that separating recyclables from waste at public parks could cost so much.

There are a plethora of resources currently in place to help people get out of poverty. With the exception of people with disabilities or mental illness, people do not really need to be poor. And, people with disabilities and/or mental illness should be taken care of by the provincial government.

Poverty is an issue that needs attention but it is something that the province should finance more.

Our image suffered badly when the medians were graveled over - we became dirty and tired looking. Let's get some of the pride back. Island gardens are attractive and offer hope and encouragement.

I agree more family MDs are needed - but what guarantees are in place to say they will remain in the city after recruited? It is not an exercise that should be repeated over & over again. I think that's called blackmail."

No flowers in the islands - clean up the parks and make new parks - no more baseball diamonds

Why would it cost \$300,000 to recycle in parks? Only government can do that.

Automatic defibrillators at all city arenas, rec centers, golf courses. (The ones who die are cheap; it is the cost of those who survive an arrest with brain damage that is crippling- emotionally and financially)

Cut the grass on fields before the dandelions go to seed especially if you want to reduce pesticides.

Cut weeds along the curbs i.e. magnolia

If you don't have a disability your choice of what recreational activities you would like to do are great in the City of Hamilton, however, if you have a disability you are very limited in your choices. If groups want to provide the service there are no facilities to hold them in at a reasonable cost. Why isn't there a baseball field to accommodate the disabled? Let's include everyone in the City of Hamilton to have a better way of life. Remember you too could become a disabled person at any time of your life, through sickness or an accident, would you not like to have choices too.

Being someone who has recently moved to Hamilton the general question I get is. 'Have you been shot at yet?' The thought of the question is funny; however, the reality is that this is what people from outside communities think.

Trails: The City already does promote the trail systems in newspapers, & at the Conservation authority offices.

Regarding poverty levels. I have a real problem with welfare distribution. There are some people in great need of welfare as they are physically or mentally unable to work. There are also a number of people that are just using it as an excuse not to work. If you go on welfare & have 1-2 kids, the amount you get should not increase if you decide to have more. If you can't support your family, then you shouldn't increase the size of it. When I had more kids I didn't ask for a raise from my office to help support them. We made a decision to have more kids based on the income that we had & whether we could support them or not. Stop giving out extra money for them to have more babies & make them get jobs if they are physically able to.

The last thing I want is the crime to move from downtown to my area which is the common issue in reducing crimes in any downtown. Therefore, we need to push school boards to eliminate crime at the early stages. Also, more neighbor to neighbor programs are important. No one care's about there neighbor and if a moving van were in my drive way stealing my things I truly don't think my neighbor would suspect anything. People also don't hurt the people they know as much as the people they don't.

The province should provide more support to reduce poverty levels in Hamilton.

Traffic Island plantings: Better choices of plants could be made. Hardy bulbs, & ever blooming perennials, low growing flowering shrubs could be added to displays of annual flowers to cut costs. Mulch could keep down the weeds & retain moisture. Shrub beds could be treated the same way, with other hardy plants & mulching. Chipping of city trees could supply the mulch. Employees or students hired also pay taxes & spend in Hamilton, so it's not just 'money out'.

Support for cultural, arts, & sporting events: What form would the support take?

Hamilton's greatest asset is its affordability and its beautiful conservation / parkland / escarpment / freshwater areas. If the city fails to protect this remarkable asset, the city will fail. Promote its beauty and the city will prosper. Promote its talent for the health sciences and the doctors will come. Hamilton needs to sing its praises and stop feeling like the poor second cousin to its neighbors.

Hamilton should continue work to make natural and public areas more accessible and pleasant to use for recreation purposes. Encourage people to get out use them and improve their health. Actions would include adding trails, maintaining trails, more and better community parks, clean water for swimming, outdoor skating rinks in winter, etc. We also need to make access to and use of recreation centers and facilities more equitable, low income and cultural minority residents are excluded.

I would like to see more bicycle lanes. I would like to see a left turn bike lane from Wilson St. on to Rousseaux St. in Ancaster. I would like to see better maintenance of all roads and bike lanes.

I support the flower program rather than have weeds as was the case in the Meadowlands after the amalgamation took place if flowers are not going to be put in these planters then I think a hard surface should be installed .

Do not allow weeds to grow in traffic islands. Plants or pavement.

Have students work/patrol trail systems to make them a safe environment.

Have work or contribution to society mandatory for those on social assistance.

Creating a livable environment will draw more people to the urban core. No one will ever be satisfied with ambulance services or fire and police services. When you are desperate and in the need of one of these than ANY period of wait are unacceptable. There has to be a balance.

Poverty reduction should come through economic development rather than additional social programs. Our city council needs to recognize that if we focus on economic development and revitalizing the downtown core, waterfront, etc. we will generate new jobs, tourism, and a larger tax base so we will have surplus funds for flower beds and shrubs. Quite frankly, I am not in a position to answer most of the above questions because it really comes down to whether or not we have the funds available for these things.

Use partnerships with businesses or service groups for beautification.

Put more police on the LInc-2 at each end, fines will pay for their salaries and increases needed for policing. Put them on the Redhill too. Move them to 4 way stops a couple times a month, money will pour in"

We need to reduce expenditures, not increase them - this might be one of the areas to do so.

Develop the Downtown, fund the arts and culture scene

You need to ensure basic medical service is available for all before we can move ahead to prevention.

Median plant beds should be made available to those who would like to donate a garden and its maintenance, in return for small sign advertising, or put it out to tender."

Stop wasting money on superfluous decorative fluff like flowers in traffic islands, idiotic "Welcome to Dundas" signs, and fancy stone work on Main West near McMaster. Invest in areas that offer a real long-term future return, like employment assistance, waste and pollution reduction, promotion of good health and physical fitness, and so on. If a city department goes under-budget, ensure their surplus is returned to the city and invested wisely, rather than allowing them to have a year-end spending orgy.

I had always found that Hamilton had the most stunning entrances, island and other with flowers, well scaped and planted beds. It was a pleasure driving through the streets, it gave one a feeling that the City cares and of life in a beautiful City. This feel of caring is gone and statement of City pride has disappeared. The beds that are plated are still very nice; however one can clearly see that the savings are not placed into the right direction. We show the tourist, drive through guest and visitors who we are by the way we maintain our roads, streets and beautification.

It is difficult for the city to address the underlying social factors that have created the poverty crisis here and elsewhere in the country. Nevertheless, each and every decision the city makes must give priority consideration into how it will impact on this problem. Much can be done with a refocusing of existing resources. Continued pressure on other levels of government to address some of the basic flaws of the assistance system is necessary. The city needs to set an example, and be much more publicly aggressive in pursuing reforms in this area. Looking at its own wage policies is a start.

We need to address poverty ASAP. Go to Wesley Urban Ministries to get a taste - not pretty.

I do not think that amalgamation of the city and the former municipalities is effective. The system is simply too large. Serious thought must be given to the devolution of power. Not through the existing "community councils" struck by various councilors in former municipalities, these are essentially just committees to ensure the reelection of the incumbent. We need some form of elections and real power. The system of shuffling staff all over Hamilton is a disaster. How can a building inspector know what is going on City wide?? Specific people must be designated to specific areas and get to know them thoroughly. Rethink the entire system IT IS NOT WORKING

Parks should be kept clean, and definitely have recycling areas - but most of the budget should be spent on larger areas (Bay Front Park, Bruce Trail, Rail Trail, Dundas Conservation Area...) such that these can be targeted in publicities about the city."

Volunteer fire departments did a good job for a lot of years. The "professional" fighters are of course better trained, but don't have the commitment to the community. Keep them both. It's definitely worth it to plant flowers in traffic islands. When I first moved here, they were overgrown with weeds and that obviously doesn't help with Hamilton's image problems. Shrub beds in parks should be farmed out to service groups to maintain as a matter of civic pride. The service groups should be given use of the parks for their occasions as barter.

How about native species for some traffic islands. They don't need pesticides, as much water, and don't need to be replaced every year. Surely a portion of the traffic islands could go this route? As for trails - complete the network and link them up, then promote it.

the city should advocate to the Government of Ontario for more funding for social programs, we get the next highest number of people needing help after Toronto, yet never seem to have the funding to support these people. Hamilton should be advocating for more doctors in the entire system - the problem is an overall shortage of spaces in the program.

Parks and flower planting provide a wonderful first impression when entering our city - please continue to support this project.

I'm not sure how you came up with a figure of over \$300,000 to implement recycling in the parks when it could or should be integrated with the current recycling scheduled pickups.

Pay me \$200,000 and supply me with a vehicle and I'll do it myself.

Could a full blown planting and pruning program be reinstated for less money by coordinating with college and high school programs. This may provide work experience, community hours, etc. without alienating the Union."

Regarding garbage collection in parks. You simply won't force many people; including teen's to take their own waste. Perhaps if there were more available garbage & recycle receptacles, people would use them. And I do support the City collecting garbage/recycle in parks as it's about the only way to help keep things clean & tidy.

Perhaps local business could be encouraged to adopt a traffic island, with a small plaque recognizing their effort. Awards could be given for best large, Small Island, best sustainable island, etc. Note that most plantings now are annual flowers that are started in greenhouses and have to be bought every year. I would like to see tolerant perennial gardens where possible.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority and its areas are a great boon to the city/region - we should be making sure we keep this up- I've lived in two small towns in Flamborough (Greensville and Freerton) and have found the volunteer fire-fighter/combo set-up works well - it keeps the fire-fighters in the community.

Improve policing - get the police away from their desks, and into the streets!

Live in an area with volunteer fire fighters and full time fire fighter come from else where. I believe this is a duplication of services and a waste of money. Also if there were more paramedics firefighters wouldn't need to go to all medical calls. - Another waste of dollars. A lot of times the paramedics are held up at hospitals there should be a solution for that- do you need 2 paramedics standing there for 2 hours. Giving money to those who are capable of doing something is not really helping them so giving them a sense of worth is important i.e. setting up a program so they can volunteer at something

Most of these questions deal with quality of life issues which are just as important as the built environment. Quality of life should be a priority and I totally agree that the elimination of poverty is a key component of this.

I totally agree that quality of life also includes the aesthetic qualities of a community so this would include trees and flowers. People tend to feel better when surrounded by beauty as opposed to concrete and asphalt.

Hamilton has some great festivals, cultural events etc. but I never hear about any of them before hand. They would be far more successful with a little well placed advertising; a sign strung across Main St. in front of city hall doesn't get the job done. This doesn't mean you have to spend a ton of money, getting them on the website would help for starters!! Your website could be a very useful tool, but it isn't well designed or laid out. Run a competition in the high schools to design the site, it will come out much better than it is and will cost almost nothing

The city must lead an aesthetic shift away from expensive, sterile, industrial approaches to green spaces that produce biologically sterile and artistically mediocre landscapes. The use of local perennials and self-seeding annuals (as in perm culture), in the long run will reduce green space costs, improve the health of the environment and create a far more distinctive, welcoming city. I do not support the parks shrub maintenance program, because it should be unnecessary: when we work with nature instead of imposing artificial and often regionally inappropriate plants, then maintenance costs should be just about non-existent; and a healthy Natural environment has ultimately far more interest and universal beauty than a manufactured one.

Taxpayers do not need to foot the bill for promoting arts and culture right now. These are promoted very well on radio and in newspapers. This not a priority.

Put the people on welfare to work ,no work - no money get them to plant the tree's and cut the grass and put in some flowers if they do not like it let them starve a bit to put a little incentive in there ability to work. Think why are you paying people to do nothing?

Hamilton is great and wonderful city but suffers from an image problem and poor planning. The city must do more to develop brown fields and reduce urban sprawl and the cost of an expanding city. This could be achieved by urban intensification, promoting local business and by greening the city and preserving large green belts.



The tree-planting program is excellent; use more volunteers (Green Peace would love this stuff). All of the traffic islands could be planted by volunteers and maintained by student workers. This would save substantial amounts of money.

Family doctors will come to the community if it is clean and welcoming. If we improve the environment and the vitality of the city they will come but first...federal and provincial initiatives will be needed to educate more GP's. McMaster and the City should be vigorously lobbying for this funding. If they are educated here and like what we have to offer they will stay!  
I think we should allow as many volunteer firefighters as we had before amalgamation."

Planted traffic islands & medians are a unique feature & should be promoted. Co-funding with local businesses & groups should be encouraged & expanded to include the parks.

Recycling bins for all recycling materials should be placed strategically throughout the city. The collection can be incorporated into the regular garbage/recycling pickups."

If we are to balance budgets and ensure that our limited resources are spent on our priorities, then I expect things like flowers in the medians and parks will have to wait until we can better afford them. While I certainly agree that Hamilton's cultural scene is a good one. But I think that the individual groups within the community can take the responsibility to promote themselves. Again, we have to prioritize where to spend our limited resources. Right now we have higher priorities that require our attention.

Would it be possible to have groups or volunteer citizens maintain some shrubs in parks just as groups take on the cosmetic maintenance of some roads/highways and there are signs indicating who they are? For expanded fire services-I think the residents in the rural areas should be asked about this as it would affect their taxes the most.

I'm surprised there haven't been lawsuits over some of the rural response times for Fire. Waterdown is completely under serviced by both Fire and Police, and Greensville/Flamborough and Binbrook are getting as bad.

Why not do a campaign whereby local businesses and service clubs pay for flowers in specific locations and a small sign is placed advertising their company/cause.

Poverty is an issue, but we have not seen any results from the money Council has already contributed to the roundtable. Where are the results? Where are the service improvements or the program changes that would address the root causes of poverty for people; the aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and immigrants? We should have programs that help them get on their feet, and you should be able to restructure and refocus the staff to provide the resources for these programs. Why do you always have to add staff for new programs? Do none of the old ones ever stop

Some areas (Ancaster Meadowlands, other) have very long wait times for fire equipment. Does the city view this as acceptable?

The volunteer firefighters in the city are top-notch. They have more training than the full timers. Please don't underestimate the value of the volunteers.

I am not concerned with the level of maintenance of shrubbery in the parks as long as they do not interfere with walkways. I think it is much more important to have recycling bins in parks.

Increased tree/park/flower bed appearance would work to improve city's image. flower bed cost can be offset by corporate sponsors (with bigger/vibrant/legible signage to motivates spenders).other cities have combined garbage/recycling collection bins in parks and on streets to encourage waste reduction(we have none of that and should). Perhaps corporate sponsorship to purchase bins (logo'd bins to offset initial and ongoing cost). EMS response is below national standards and frequently there are no ambulances available for considerable time. 18&12 for a city of 1/2 million people is appalling. Perhaps offsetting cost by elimination of management/supervisor staff or reducing dual fire response and increasing use of cost efficient volunteers.

I am tired of paying for people who are too lazy to work. I am sick of reading articles about these 'poor' people who don't have enough money at the end of the month to pay their bills, yet they have cable TV, call waiting and other wasteful amenities. No more free ride!"

50% of new immigrants are poor because employers don't hire them including all levels of government. Anti-racism training should be mandatory for human resources dept. in the city. Bring more jobs to Hamilton and promote training rather than charity. Charity is a band aid which doesn't reduce poverty; it just creates an industry in itself which needs desperate clients,

We should also do away with the ""user fee"" boxes in our taxpayer supported conservation areas, or institute a ""resident sticker"" system.

The main re-cycling issue based at home collections, so we should concentrate on that if we have to choose."

As mentioned previously, I support native perennials.

As a medical research centre, Hamilton should be coming up with innovative solutions to our national medical crisis.

Our trails and parks are wonderful, indeed. They should be free, or by donation, not fee-based.

I'd like to see a focus on arts and culture more than sports: when they are lumped together, its sports that wins out. - Not all of us play hockey or soccer; some of us prefer other pursuits. Arts and culture help make a region vibrant and need support.

Maintain volunteer firefighters and do not give in to 'union' interests that wish to eliminate the use of volunteers. In Burlington, traffic islands are sponsored by businesses that use it as advertising. They plant flowers etc and a small sign is posted acknowledging which local business is providing the floral display. Why don't we do this in Hamilton?

Why don't you get businesses in the community to sponsor islands and reduce the cost.

I don't think it is fair to ask people one extreme or another. What else could the 300,000 go to? It all comes down to accountability what are our tax dollars paying for?

Never had to use EMS or Fire so not familiar with delivery (how fast they come, how they are paid).

The only interaction with police is when they sit on Hwy 5 and give out tickets.

Here in Waterdown, I don't think we are in a good position. Our library is too small and has no parking. The only recreation center is the Y which is expensive. My child who is special needs has to go to Burlington for programs and services and the association I belong to is dying (no City support)

I would like to see more money spent to grow the programs/services offered - NOT on promotion - let word of mouth get the job done!

HOW HIGH IS 'HIGHER' in reference to taxes?

There are 100,000 people at or below the poverty line, and you can safely assume that the lack of good paying job growth in the Hamilton area has contributed to this huge number. Again, we need to attract more businesses to Hamilton!

Look to reallocate funding vs. increasing property taxes....property taxes and insurance are already quite high in Hamilton....i.e. I think getting residents above the poverty line in Hamilton is without a doubt more of a priority that flower beds as part of medians.

Hamilton needs to check into its housing for the poor. There is a gross misuse of the system. I have heard of people living in the low income housing and yet can take vacations back to the countries they come from. How is that? If they cry poor - how can they save the money to travel? Something is badly wrong with the system and it should be monitored and dealt with. Get rid of the freeloaders that are costing the City money. This is what is wrong with Hamilton. Nobody is accountable for their actions.

We are trying to beautify our city and make it esthetically pleasing to visitors, so if we plant trees and flower beds then they need to be maintained. All too often do I see the trees planted by the city all in a row and all dead?

Speaking of amalgamation, what happened to the savings? The city should be run like a responsible household. Stop wasting money on frivolous things and stick with necessities. I know city employees who are frustrated with the waste and cronyism seen and experienced in their own departments. What if any attempts is the city using to tap their own internal resources to stop waste and poor value for our money?

Please stop concentrating social services in the lower city in particular and in attracting new clients to the city in general. Hamilton is far too generous in respect to its social service spending resulting in our city becoming a destination for social service clients from communities that surround us who do not take care of their own. Please aim for an even distribution of services throughout the province rather than asking the province to provide us with more money to accommodate this ever growing problem.

Items 1, 2, and 4 refer to the care that gives us healthy trees, shrubs and flowers provides natural air cleaning in the city as well as jobs that teach really pertinent skills to people as well as enhancing the natural beauty of the city. In Item 5 the example of recycling is something that needs modeling everywhere, we can't expect others to do the thing we won't support at the public level. Item 6 groups' culture, heritage, art and sport together - this is too wide a catchment since I believe sport dominates at present. Also there needs to be discernment between opportunities for participation and audience activities.

Continue to find partners to offset cost to the planting flowers on islands.

Didn't know you still had the trees across Hamilton going. Let communities know so we can get more trees planted in the city.

What if the city tried to reduce some of the costs for cosmetics in the streets and parks by using products from local businesses, and involving more school children and community service hours to plant these items instead of paying as many city employees.

We need to start to beautify the City. It is actually quite disgraceful the way our public parks look, e.g. Gage Park

Keep Hamilton pretty! It needs it.

I have had need of ambulance service (more than 12 months ago) and was very pleased with the level of response time.

With regards to recycling, what about more "3" item recycling bins along sidewalks? Although recruiting doctors to help with the shortage is important has the council considered how the role of the Nurse Practitioner may help to reduce the strain. Is there a role for the city in helping foreign trained doctors obtain their license to practice?

The flowers in the medians are the main evidence that I see on an everyday basis that my property taxes are at work. I love them. Bring them back!

Hamilton needs more family physicians. I don't know whether spending money to recruit them is the way to get more of them. If it is, then I figure this sort of spending."

Does the city invite corporate or individual sponsorships of public areas? Can the city encourage resident participation in beautifying and maintaining the 'divider gardens' on our roads? Can the eco-groups in the schools be part of the "making our neighborhood more attractive" effort, both in planning and creating?

The city must lead in recycling, trash collection etc even at a cost. The amounts quoted are miniscule compared to the total budget of which it appears large amounts are wasted annually because of inefficiencies.

**STOP BUDGET MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THE RAIL TRAIL STAIRS TO MARGATE AND MTN BROW BLVD. USE FOR NECESSARY SERVICES.**

Being unemployed for so long the only exercise or pleasure available is walking. However, walking on city streets is not pleasant and parks are too far away or local parks like Fay Park are useless. Even walking diagonally in Fay Park to save time is difficult because of the hill. I want to build a house on land that is Fay Park, and I would like a piece at least fifty feet wide and 110 feet deep. Empty lots throughout the city like this do nothing to make a great place to live. If I could choose a place to live I would ask the management of a city if I would be welcome there, as I do not feel welcome in my own home town where I was born. I feel I work as a janitor keeping the place up for someone else who will buy it in future.

A friend of mine is a volunteer fire fighter in a rural area and often quotes how his fire hall has faster response times than the full time firefighters in a neighboring area responding to fires that are closer to the hall.

The strongest issue I have is the shortage of doctors. My parents are not satisfied with their GP. Further they live on the East Mountain and their doctor is in Ancaster. I think it is ridiculous that people are forced to remain with someone they have no faith in and can't get to easily. Right now it works because they both drive but what of the future. How will they get to their appointments? I have and they have tried in vain. Each response is the same, "Sorry the doctor is not taking any new patients, EVER". Can't a waiting list be implemented? Surely doctors lose patients once in a while. Anyway this is my greatest area of concern. Thanks for allowing me to air it.

While I cannot confirm what he tells me as fact I think that a good examination of response times should be considered before taking such drastic action as disassembling the volunteer fire fighters in rural areas (doubly so since all the volunteers have other jobs that they may enjoy more then firefighting and do it as more of a civic duty then as a carrier and hence we could loose some good people in such a situation)"

I gave notes of median flower beds - have them funded by business in exchange for advertising as sponsors. Hold people accountable for their garbage. Make them use the programs developed. They work.

It is well recognized that one of the most important factors in businesses locating in a city is the amenities the city has to offer for their employees and visitors to the city. It is imperative that the city reinvest in the beautification of our City for the reasons stated above ...let alone civic pride. Again this is an area considered to be direct Service programs to the citizens, visitors, tourism and city well being. Do not allow the "Broken Window" syndrome continue in this great city of ours (invest in its beautification). I understand EMS and Fire are rated the best in the country...how about 3rd best and reduce the costs. Being 3rd best is not a bad thing and will allow reallocation of scarce tax dollars to other direct programs.

A VIA rail station at the centre mall would produce jobs and reduce Hamilton's pathetic poverty rates.

Develop a requirement that businesses/offices recycle blue box items and have boxes available for use. City arenas (especially hockey change rooms) did not have recycling in use in '05/06. With the incredible amounts of pop cans discarded, has this improved?

Increase fines for littering throughout the city, increase public awareness and respect for clean community.

Again, questions are leading. i.e. Why spend more money on unionized city staff to do work that the conservation authority does more efficiently and for less money (because they are not unionized). Just increase the budget to the Authority or divest the tasks to them because they would do the job for less.

Why discuss culture and then throw in recreation. They are two different things.

Clean up the litter by making property owners responsible. School caretakers should clean up their act. The more flowers and trees, the better.

Fire, Ambulance and Police services are a real priority for me. If you aren't safe and secure, you can't concentrate on higher order goals.

We need to encourage Hamiltonians to do things for one another. This is happening already, to some degree but there is room for improvement. We can be better neighbors to those who struggle. We can also have higher expectations for those who are lazy and irresponsible.

I suspect that work done to support education and economic development would reduce poverty without having to raise property tax that is if good jobs and the training to go along with them are available, there should be less poverty.

We need more outdoor rinks both natural and artificial. I believe Buchanan Park on the Mountain would be a perfect spot for an artificial outdoor rink in the wintertime. The City of Owen Sound did one recently at its Harrison Park and it's terrific. I think the money to make traffic islands look nice could be better spent on outdoor rinks. We are a winter country after all! A tree funding program is a good idea; however, no one should be forced to have a tree since if it eventually causes difficulties for the homeowner, it is almost impossible to have it removed with a great deal of "flak" from the city.

The GHA requires funding for individuals with disabilities to participate in culture and recreation. Both the Hamilton District Sledge Hockey Association and the Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association provide sports outlets for these individuals. Sledge hockey has a home at Chedoke Arena. Challenger baseball has been moved around without a home for years. They have played out of Gourley Park, but this is far from suitable. Bethune Park was promised but the residents petitioned negatively. Inch Park has been proposed and promised by the city but no action has been taken. These individuals must have a home base for their equipment & with accessibility requirements to the fields and washroom facilities. Hamilton must lead.

I would be willing to look after an island flower planting in my area.

If the City would provide the plants they want, and even a preferred layout, I would do the preparation, planting and ongoing maintenance of the island freely."

I don't disagree that our poorest members should be assisted, but feel that job creation is a better solution for most, rather than greater welfare or other solutions. Sustainable geared to income housing would also be a good solution.

I like the idea of well groomed public area in our community, it speaks to who we are, and sends the message to visitors, that we care enough to make things beautiful. I feel the promotion of our parks, cultural and recreational facilities should be part of an integrated marketing campaign to draw residents, businesses and tourists to this city. We have a huge amount to offer, but we have become complacent and apathetic, watching our own demise. I know many have given up hope, and can't wait to leave.

Paying to recruit doctors? They know we are here, they make good money, and it is of their interest to establish here.

Planting of flowers requires maintenance, mainly watering, which uses a lot of a valuable resource. I don't support paving these islands; making them beautiful improves life in the city. What about hardy flowering perennials, or an assortment of native species?

Promoting our cultural resources and our outdoor trails etc. to our own residents is a priority"

Increasing taxes is not the answer to all our problems - we need to utilize and promote existing resources and institutions more effectively. The key to reducing poverty is building literacy and education. Literacy is the key and yet we do not do a good job of promoting literacy to our low income families to instill a love of learning. Again partnerships and promotion between elementary schools, libraries and city hall to work together to make Hamilton a learning community and put a positive and promote a positive attitude to education Through CAS and Public Health money should be directed to support single parent families to level the playing field for them by offering free music lessons and sports programs donated by corporate sponsors.

I am frustrated with the traffic lights at intersections in this city. Why are there no advanced turn signals at so many large intersections and if there is one it lasts for only a few seconds? The downtown is a disgrace. Get rid of the bingo hall, peep show, discount stores; get the bums away from Jackson square. If parking was easier I might do some business down there. Getting rid of the one way streets was not the answer. Get rid of those ridiculous sidewalk drinking areas, especially Buttinskys on King Street. When Starbucks opens a coffee shop downtown you'll know things are looking up.

Hamilton supports the Greenbelt .This has forced many industries to locate west of us on prime agricultural land. This could have been in Hamilton. Let's be responsible and support industry locating in Hamilton. Stop funding the RBG and privatize it. Make the conservation areas cost effective with full cost recovery, maybe privately run

Here are the facts: Hamilton easily has the nicest landscape out of all the larger cities in Southern Ontario AND Hamilton has the worst image in Southern Ontario. The trail systems are excellent and improving (including the new Waterfront trail). The parks and recreation centres are dismal. The marketing department needs help.

If we make the city inviting to live in, the businesses will come. So, curb the runaway development, promote the green spaces, make the core more interesting by providing more to do for more people (a small casino in Standard Life would be an excellent idea, consider putting some interesting things down by the waterfront (a stadium?)...and promote the city. It would be so easy to put Hamilton on the map

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I feel the recruiting of doctors is a provincial/federal responsibility. Ask Dalton to get some doctors for Hamilton - with an election coming up, he'll promise anything.

Open treed areas surrounding a vibrant and accessible downtown. Unfortunately the mountain sprawl has diminished the desire for people to go there.

Living in Flambourgh - I avoid downtown, and use the parks generously supported by service organizations. I find Cambridge has better access to services in terms of travel time and range of services.

I don't know where else to say this. This survey is extremely biased and unclear. You should have contacted any faculty member at McMaster University and asked them to check it first.

If the city is going to plant flower beds, it should maintain them by weeding them. The flower beds are a nice luxury and provide summer jobs for students.

Please raise my property taxes to pay for these services - yes, that's right - raise my taxes. If there is a public auditing and accounting then I am in favour. I have lived in parts of the world where there are low taxes and low levels of service (Southern Africa, Pakistan, etc.) and I can tell you that that is NOT the direction to go.

Repeal the breed ban. Create a vibrant, welcoming culture for loving dog owners instead of creating a culture of canine murder. It's not OK to treat people's pets as monsters when they are not.

I find it very helpful to learn how much each of these services costs. I would like you to include these costs in each of the areas that you ask us about in this survey.

I would like to see an accessible baseball facility for the physically challenged in the Hamilton-Wentworth area near the City center if possible, thank you.

I was thinking that a volunteer program would be a good idea for Hamiltonians to beautify our city...we could have qualified or specific volunteers planting flowers or maintaining the shrub beds in our city & parks. It could be used as an incentive program for students for their 40 hours community service for their high school diploma, or even retirees. This way, we could lower the costs of this but still keep it in place as it is a necessity to keep our city nice.

I strongly believe that it is important for everyone to have proper facilities. I believe that having a park for challenger baseball, is just as important as having a park for able-bodied people. The disabled should not be segregated from other. We deserve our freedom, and it should be designed to meet our needs. I feel that if we cannot get our park, that this is wrong and discriminatory.

First, I am an advocate for persons with disabilities and feel we need to have sports facilities available for these individuals if programs are to be provided for them. Further, I have a daughter on a disability that has been on a waiting list for 4 years now for geared to income rental accommodations. I feel this is totally unacceptable!



Two issues are important to me. First is having a permanent field for Hamilton Challenger Baseball. The importance of having a properly maintained field for disabled athletes is of major importance as they are in need of as much physical and social stimulation as any other rec league.

Second is the reopening of Chedoke Ski Hill for local use. My daughter is an Alpine skier with the Special Olympics. She won Bronze at the Provincial games but must travel to Glen Eden during the week to practice while still maintaining honours at college. Cost of accessible recreation should not be an issue when money is constantly being spent to rebuild Gore Park several times at taxpayer expense and other such projects.

Regarding the Island planting, I'm not sure I understand the need for that amount of money. Do we not have corporate sponsors that pay for this and if not why? Summer students are who I see taking on this program... what are their costs? Are the plant materials not supplied by our own Horticulture section? I think it needs to be re-looked at in terms of its costs.

Trails: Would like to see the garbage containers cleaned out more often.

I do not like the either or nature of some of these questions. I would hope that other options can be looked at to compliment things like waste disposal (a central neighborhood deposit area for glass/cans which would reduce cost and allow for savings to assist in park waste.)

All doctors seem to want to practice in downtown Toronto, close to all amenities for them. Opera houses, restaurants etc. Upon graduation, they should be required to practice a year or two in areas where doctors do not want to go. If they don't go there, they don't practice.

Connect the city with the churches and faith-based organizations.

True City Churches want to be a blessing to our city--this is part of why we exist. So how can churches be mobilized to work with the city on issues like healthy environment and care for the poor. We want to be part of the conversation. We want to be partners.

The demographic bulge of boomers will require more medical services. I would emphasize prevention over cure, i.e. clean air and a healthy environment and parks, accessible cultural activities based on our heritage and multi ethnic mix, respect for our heritage (including native) sites and honoring our past great men and women, including our native past. Elderly people who are honored and have access to activities that are meaningful to them can be productive healthy citizens and we should make sure we take advantage of that to the fullest, rather than considering them an expense and burden. Our recent immigrants and refugees bring with them a wealth of experience and skills. These should be used and valued

Spend dollars on the QEW people stair crossing not the rail-trail Margate stairs. In a location too far north, plus two locations for access exist in area.

As a parent of two children both with developmental disabilities I believe that accessibility is a priority for our city. It is my understanding that our baseball league challenger baseball is currently in talks with the city strongly working toward finding a home park for the entire league. Hamilton is completely blessed to have this amazing baseball league in our city. It is about so much more than simply baseball. Having a park to call our own would only add to an already amazing program. I strongly favour that part being in our neighborhood park as not only is it our neighborhood park but it already is well on the way to being completely accessible.

I really liked the plantings that we had when Mayor Morrow was in office, seeing them brightened one's day and gave a feeling of pride. Having said that, I don't think we should spend money ripping out concrete or asphalt that has been poured into former beds. With regard to shrubs in parks, I can't say that I have noticed the deterioration. I am all for adding greenery when possible. It makes for a healthier city. We are not keeping up with the removal of plant life.

Accessible city facilities including recreation facilities is important for the disabled of, and those visiting, our community. We pay taxes and vote too! Specifically, accessible baseball facilities including access to washrooms are required immediately.

The city needs to attract more business. Low income earners, who cannot afford cars, can work in their own city - but there are not enough good paying jobs. This business will also help ease the tax burden on residents

# Planning for Our Future

*Your comments and ideas are important. Please provide your thoughts on ways the City can better plan for the future?*

## Responses

A percentage of parking fees at City meters should go towards public transit. Hamilton already has very cheap parking rates for a downtown city and plenty of parking lots.

Thanks for asking. It must also be remembered that suburban areas also include areas such as Waterdown, Ancaster, Dundas etc. - these must also be attractive to new residents and businesses.

Previous developers have enriched themselves by having taxpayers subsidize urban sprawl. This must stop. Hamilton should leverage its waterfront and develop its strengths as a rail and water transport hub.

I never go downtown, it is a terrible place. STOP WASTING MONEY!!!!!!!

Intensification of our urban centres is critical. A balanced increase in residential and small business should be encouraged, as well as zoning to allow a broader range of commercial uses in urban areas (mixed use). Clean industrial use could also be incorporated in urban areas (this would be another advantage of promoting only sustainable business development).

Developers need to be stopped- areas like My Spring Creek in Waterdown should be an embarrassment to the people that approved it. Hacking away at the Niagara escarpment for cheaply built housing on dime size lots completely destroys the watershed and makeup of the escarpment. Soon the view of the escarpment from below will be of townhouse roofs instead of rock and trees. Hamilton downtown, and east end has so much brown space- builders should be revitalizing this space first and preserving the trails and farms for Hamiltonians enjoyment, food supply and clean air. We are on our way to becoming another Mississauga if we are not careful. Soon the farmers markets in the area will have to close b/c there will be 100's of townhouses on the orchards.

My idea: Economic Growth in the Down town area: (a) Between June and end of August close King St down between Wellington and Bay St. between the hours of 5pm to 1am. and all day Saturday and Sunday; (b) Also close down James Street to the Bay front park; (c) Encourage our various restaurants, deli's etc to develop patio's; (d) The city should create a business group who would attract street performers, bands, 3 on 3 basket ball, art exhibits; (e) Stores can remain open; (f) Transportation - Rickshaw pulled by runners, walking; (g) Music in the streets - a festival atmosphere; (h) Businesses are encouraged to be creative; (i) encourage performing arts - music, theater to perform; (j) various minority groups to be represented

My greatest concerns with the City of Hamilton are:

- Air quality
- Downtown (rundown, condemned buildings, etc.)
- Poverty (panhandlers and people living on the street)
- Crime (drugs, prostitution)

Public transit must be brought to all areas included in the 'new city of Hamilton'. Fares cannot be increased, I would not want increased property taxes either, I feel that governments, especially the municipal governments waste money and should look carefully at where money is spent and reallocate wasted funds towards vital services like transit. The Red Hill expressway is one of those wastes of money, all I see this project as is money wasted on destroying a vital environmental and social feature of Hamilton. Public transit should be paid for out of taxes while roads should have user fees. I think transit downtown is already very good but can always be improved and am opposed to free parking because I think people should use transit.

Not much on air quality (except anti-idling laws) or crime mentioned in the survey. Hamilton's bad reputation is based on those two issues. There is a big drug problem in Hamilton and what is being done about it? Drugs lead to poverty and crime. It is a major concern."

Get the Integrity Commissioner appointed, and demonstrate that Integrity actually has meaning at City Hall. Recent events surrounding the harassment allegations, and Council's inability to react responsibly, have served to erode the resident's confidence in elected officials.

If you toll the red hill valley route tolls MUST come off once paid for... If you toll only commercial vehicles there must be enforcement so the trucks do not continue to use Centennial Parkway as a free route to the QEW. Possibly tolling the LINC for commercial traffic may help pay down the cost too. Downtown needs more business and people living down there. Policing doesn't seem to be too much of a problem right now. I think the police are doing a good job downtown. Maintaining their presence at the current levels I think would suffice.

Finish the Red Hill project - enough wasted time and money! Get 'r' Done! No fancy landscapes. Road should be safe & completed.

Sewage problems in some areas should be addressed. Residential areas should have all sewers checked and be assured that no flooding of basements will occur.

Fiscal balance is of most importance. Keep all expenses to minimal - best value for the dollar attitude.

Charge all vehicles a toll on the highway AND ban commercial vehicles from using other access points to the mountain

Clean downtown up. I think Toronto is doing a good job of cleaning up the dumpy part of their downtown (east of downtown on Front St.) encouraging those other than the homeless or drug infested to visit. There has been a fair bit of condo growth but matched with boutique type stores and a cultural nightlife.

Money brings growth. If you can't encourage promote your growth to attract that money then crumple up this survey and put it in ""file 13"". Those with the money to spend are adverse to visit an area that makes them feel ""uncomfortable"".

Upload Social Services back to the Province. Redhill Expressway should be a Toll Highway, user should pay. De-amalgamate the City back to the original municipalities with Service Board's for Hydro, Water Sewers and Roads. Planning, Fire, Police, Parks & Rec should be local government.

Parking should be free all week long in all city parking lots- you want people to come to the core- make parking free.

While downtown revitalization is important - we also have to remember that Hamilton is an amalgamation of many communities (Ancaster, Stoney Creek) each with their own "downtown" core too. I think it is important to find initiatives that those of us who live outside of the core find relevant - both initiatives and activities that will bring people to downtown Hamilton - as well as strategies to protect the unique "flavour" of some of the "sub-communities" within the Greater Hamilton area.

You want people to live downtown, are you prepared to rezone the Durand neighborhood to high-rise like you should have done in 1971. What would be the state of the City now, better perhaps? You see what happens when people who want to be reelected get involved. They are our problem."

I think developers should pay the full cost of the required infrastructure for their projects, plus a legacy fee for maintenance of infrastructure in aging parts of the city.

No I don't want an increase in my property tax bill to pay for it. I want strict accountability for the funds already paid into the city and the people responsible for squandering it and lining their own pockets (i.e. moral accountability) made accountable and removed from their position.

No more strippers or peep shows down town keep them in the industrial areas, move the halfway houses too. Lower taxes so businesses will move in, and fine building owners that don't keep up their buildings. Offer big incentives for a large retailer to move in downtown (best buy, Future Shop, Canadian Tire) once one comes in, others will follow, followed by small businesses.

Developers should pay the full cost for Greenfield development. If they don't want those charges, they should develop brown fields which usually have all services already in place.

No to tolls on the Red Hill. And no to dropping the lawsuit too unless we get a significant amount of money from the Federal Government, equivalent to what we would have got if we went ahead with the suit. Cleaning up the harbour is not enough. We need at least \$70,000,000 from the Federal Government, in addition to the harbour cleanup money, to drop the suit.

Once again the Red Hill Saga. It is unbelievable that as people who own houses we are required to pay for an unnecessary highway through our taxes. People who rent their living accommodations are lucky I guess. Toll it; do not charge us, as there will be a vast majority of home owning Hamiltonians who will not likely be using that highway.

Make developers pay for infrastructure.

Make developers pay, not established homes and businesses

5 make all surface routes in the area NON TRUCK ROUTES

General comments:

Hybrids are nice but really expensive, go back to tenders that award for the lowest price. We don't need sterling snow plows, Sebring bylaw cars, also why does the HSR provide a pick up service for the bus drivers at 3-4 am in a city bus? MY TAX DOLLARS PAYING FOR WELL PAYED EMPLOYEES TO GET TO WORK? AT WHAT COST? MAYBE THE CITY SHOULD INVESTAGATE ITSELF A LITTLE CLOSER. AND IF THIS IS ACTUALLY READ I WOULD LIKE AN ANSWER (REALLY I WOULD!)

GET THE RED HILL CREEK EXPRESSWAY FINISHED!!! IT IS NEEDED AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN FINISHED YEARS AGO!!!

Here is what I want - I want my taxes to go DOWN - and I want money spent on things that directly affect the people of Hamilton - like pools, parks, arena's. Not consultants, trips broad, new marketing campaigns!

Business owners should be cleaning their own walkways and parking lots

Free parking all the time with a 3 hour limit in that space to encourage more people to go

We need to improve public safety not just the perception of safety.

Transit-all busing seems to end up downtown, that part is fine. The downtown core is a bottleneck. Develop parking just outside of the downtown core and have people shuttled into the core using their parking stub as a free shuttle ticket for the round trip in and out of the core. Add the cost as part of the fee when parking in these designated parking lots.

A friend opened a business downtown King & John employing 45 people; he has since closed his U.S. offices & now employs 90 people. The City did nothing noting this new business, a little plug from the City in the Spec. would let people know yes there is new business in the City and look at it as a bright side. The company is Myron Printing, the pay base is \$15.00 an hour + bonuses. By the way when I told Mr. Brattina of the original opening he was too busy, so if he couldn't make it that day why not another just to say hi, & welcome new business to the Hamilton core.

The big problem downtown is not the parking or the cost...the big problem is personal safety. Downtown Hamilton is a very dangerous place. That's why most people avoid it. I'm not sure there is a way around this, as the government is not going to move all the halfway houses, etc. Bottom line, people are going to go where they feel safe; and right now that's not downtown. My suggestion would be to keep developing the waterfront, and hopefully some spillover will occur downtown eventually. First, you have to attract people to the GENERAL AREA. Good things are happening on the waterfront, and if we try to expand the rebuilding towards the downtown, it might slowly improve.

There are many people in this city with fantastic ideas, energy and plans for new businesses. Who will hold their mortgages though? This is a real barrier to business owners.

In terms of financial incentives to developers or businesses to locate downtown, I would support reduced or deferred taxes for a number of years.

People need to find a better sense of community. We need to find a way to develop that -- and work with their neighbours, around home and work.

I live in the East end of Hamilton and was absolutely against the Red Hill Creek expressway - so why now do I have a choice of whether to pay a toll or have my taxes increased..... NOT FAIR!

It seems the more money you pour into the downtown area other areas are neglected and the slums are slowly moving eastward to Parkdale and westward to Dundurn in our once proud city. Can you not hire more welfare people and pay them a decent wage (we have no shortage of labour)?

Well, there has been so much federal money announced to reduce greenhouse gases and one method would be to encourage public transit. So reduce the price. Both my kids ride the bus with monthly passes. If people lived downtown or along the main routes they could use the buses. We need a Via / Go station near Centre Mall. Free parking is smart, why go downtown when it is free to park at Lime ridge. Locke street has the right idea so where is the plan for downtown. We waste \$80 million on a court house that is used 9-5 Monday to Friday the area around Jackson Sq is a pit and ugly. Peep shows, Bingo with Gaudy pizza or dirty restaurant signs. We need a clean walking friendly place. As for paying to drive the Redhill NOT. We need it for progress

Hamilton needs to start focusing on brown field development and not on green field development. There are plenty of open areas already waiting development right here within our City. The need to go to the outlying areas is not justified. I would like to see immediate pressure focusing on downtown development. There are far too many vacant store fronts and abandoned buildings within our core. It gives the area a very unsafe feeling.

Improve perception of the city's safety, how about admitting to problems in drug activity, organized crime, gangs, prostitution, and other crimes, Try making this city the envy of the free world. WE have many things to take care of long before we achieve that level, start with crime, taxes, civil government functionality, environmental.

Create a walking street in the downtown core! Another high profile hotel would be good. Number is badly worded - it is a question of choice, but I can only answer Yes or No. I feel that developers should continue to pay for the infrastructure. If all vehicles end up being charged a toll for the ill-advised expressway there should be some exemption for residents as we have in theory already paid for it through taxes. And while I realize it is too late and that the current council isn't responsible I feel I need to express my disappointment with the building of the expressway based on old, outdated information as well as the city's deliberately leaving it out of all environmental plans (esp. Vision 2020)

I fully support developers paying the full const of the required infrastructure. This should not be subsidized by urban residents.

Transit, transit, transit - make transit more user-friendly, and perhaps we won't have to worry about parking at all :)

Redevelopment of the downtown core is the key. We need to boost the amount spent on economic development. Revitalize the downtown to make it inviting for businesses. Our transit system already uses the downtown as a hub, make use of that. Encourage the use of the downtown area for festivals and events. There is a beautiful area above Jackson Square that very few people really know about. Give people a reason to come downtown.... Heck have a We love the Hammer festival.

Free parking or cheap parking is imperative to encourage downtown interest. One thing that was not mentioned in the list of important renewal factors and that is housing. In order to make a downtown vibrant is to have affordable housing downtown as well as other housing developments. It is said that anchors draw the crowd from one area of the downtown core to another. There are some good anchors but much of that space isn't used. Take the roof tops at Jackson Square...Holy Smokes...what a great space for so many venues but it's not being used! As for the building downtown - the City has to get tough on property standards. If owners of these beautiful buildings aren't going to fix them up and remove their boards - then fine them.

People should be educated in the good reasons why they should use public transit. The stigma around the use of public transit is only for people that can't afford cars should end. People who live in Mississauga and the GTA use the public transit and many are financially well off. Living close to the downtown core I believe the streets are clean of litter most times I visit.

Downtown is important to a CITY. Our downtown needs to be rebuilt. The buildings are old and falling apart. The two way streets aren't helping. Do NOT convert any more too two-way. It causes congestion downtown and I stay away more now than ever, and I live downtown. It is even worse if you are walking - trying to cross the two way streets. I would like to see a report on how this has helped? The city - I love Hamilton and wouldn't live anywhere else. I also choose to live downtown. I like to be able to walk to the store, to the park, etc. We have a great city, let's be proud and show it off. We need more venues coming to the city. We also need advertisement - usually you don't find out who's been here until after they've been here.

If the Red Hill becomes a toll road, Taxpayers should receive free tokens recognizing the equity they have in the Expressway through their taxes.

Increased investment in public transit should come from more efficient budgeting and from visionary private sector investment, not from raised taxes or fares.

Financing public transport should have a box for a mix of property taxes and fare increase

I believe developers should pay the entire bill for development. It will get passed on to homeowners but if you want a new house in a new subdivision obviously you'll pay the increase

For question 4: I think that development charges, paid by developers, should cover the full cost of the required infrastructure and services needed. The answer choice is unclear.

No one goes downtown as there is not much there and you have to pay for parking also there are a lot of creepy people there if there was free parking, make it easier for businesses to survive (i.e. lower taxes and rent) then maybe you would have more people shopping and less creepy people hanging out and begging for things

Hamilton needs to provide its citizens security - first and foremost. Crime prevention, Police presence and a crackdown of violent crime and the drug trade. Crime needs to be expelled from Hamilton! One House at a time, street by street. Hamilton needs to look at Barton Street and abandon buildings - is this the new Buffalo? Is Hamilton's main industry plywood sales in order to board up buildings? Hamilton needs urban redevelopment, new citizens and new businesses. The time is right, Housing and businesses are un-affordable in Mississauga and Toronto. Hamilton should be booming, but it isn't due to Crime and pollution. Something needs to be done before it gets worse. All you need is a little start, and the rest will follow. Please try

This document is an extremely valuable tool which I must indicate shows great thought and attention to detail in its preparation

City transit is actually quite good, very easy to use, frequent and clean. I DO think that downtown looks grungy, forgotten and ugly. It's like the people who can't afford to go to places like Lime ridge Mall just wander downtown to Jackson Square and drag themselves to the bargain basement, messy, garage sale looking, forgotten stores.



I like going downtown since it's nearby, but I hate when people come to visit me here and they see downtown and it looks dirty, like an old industrial park where things are coated in dust."

The cities web site. Must be the worst web site out there!

Developers should pay the WHOLE cost - this should not go to the taxpayers but will be paid by the people paying to live in Greenfield developments.

It isn't enough to increase the perception of public safety downtown - you need to actually increase public safety in the downtown core.

Improved public transit benefits everyone and should therefore be paid for by users and non-users alike (I'd even support eliminating fares entirely).

True cost accounting shows that new developments often burden communities with on-going costs not reflected in the up-front fees. If a green-field development is not viable without subsidy, its proponents should ante up or wait until it is feasible.

Tolls would have to be accompanied by measures to keep the traffic from the non-toll alternatives.

The issue of parking rates in Hamilton is a joke. I've spent more to park for an evening in Toronto or Ottawa than I would for a week in Hamilton and not begrudged it because what I wanted to do was downtown.

"Improved perception of public safety" – how about you put more money into the police and actually make the place safer for people and their property. You also might want to expand your focus a little, James St N is doing quite well lately, but large parts of Barton Street are still as bad as ever. Please look at areas in the city with low property values – identify the issue(s) that causes people to not want to live there (take a poll on the issues if you don't already know.) and aggressively go after those issues. Crime will most likely be on top, so please don't go after "changing the perception", the perception will go when the crack houses go & the prostitutes & the vehicle thefts/damage end.

Improved 'perception' of public safety - I think that says it all.

Keep cleaning the streets - not just the paper litter.

Public Transit should not be subsidized. It should be operated as a real business and turn a profit. Fare increases and attracting customer use should be its primary concern. The Red Hill should be paid for by its users only.

Hmmm free parking after 5 downtown - but where would one go....oh yes to all the dollar stores and the dirty movies but wait one has to fight off the panhandlers and the street kids...and the pigeons.

Hamilton was a beautiful place to live and if I had the money...remember some of us folk make \$9.25 an hour so we are unable to move to outlying areas such as Grimsby, Caledonia and Mount Hope where a great deal of city workers live....I teach courses in the city and it amazes me that a great deal of the city workers do not and would not live in Hamilton...because of the problems....poverty and drugs...I have to go now and chase the hookers away from my home.

Part of improving Hamilton's image is rooted in moving away from this Car Centric mentality of the downtown. Downtowns are not suburban car freeways, they should not be a corridor for transport trucks taking a shortcut down Main Street through the core to get to Victoria and then down to Burlington Street. Parking should be paid for downtown according to demand for space. People should be able to live downtown first and priority should not be placed on how to get people to drive downtown from the outskirts or on conveying them as fast as possible through the middle of it. Downtowns are congested, they have pedestrians and they have public transit, it's a matter of physics. Through traffic should be diverted away from downtowns.

Free parking until downtown is running strong.

Downtown should be our priority period when it comes to economic revitalization; it could be a hub, a center of economic activity and instead, well. There's much to be desired. Please do all you can in every aspect; especially safety, though people will not go somewhere they don't feel safe which is why instead of frequenting the Jackson Movie Theatre we go up the mountain because it's.. Well safer. And the free parking would be great; since I think only people working at businesses should have to pay to park. But I'll go out on a limb and add this: can the Jackson Parking lot be made free at all times. That's why it doesn't get more customers at the mall than it does, because people don't want to have to PAY to park just to go shopping.

I support the toll system for Red Hill if Mt. Albion remains open as a cost-free alternative.

I selected 'improved transit' as least important because just about every HSR bus goes downtown. Improved parking would be a larger priority for me.

I think developers should cover the infrastructure costs. I also disagree with the new two-direction routes the city implemented two years ago.

Free parking will do nothing without a reason for people to come downtown in the first place. There is nothing attracting people to the downtown area. Working downtown, I and fellow employees have been harassed numerous times by drunks and drug addicts. We don't expect a perception of safety...we expect safety. The downtown should be the life of the city not embarrassment of it. We need an aggressive approach to making downtown the life of the city it should be. Small stores and cafes. Keep out the big box stores and dollar stores and create a culturally rich and vibrant downtown core. STOP URBAN SPRAWL!! Torontonians call Hamilton the Dollar Store Capital.....not something we should be known for.

Think of the movie 'Field Of DREAMS' when they said 'If you build it they will come' and think about Hamilton. If Hamilton LOOSES its Dirty WATERFRONTFRONT Image and GREENS UP the place, cleans up CRIME and encourages a Cultural Downtown (Not filled with Halfway Houses and homeless shelters) PEOPLE WILL COME. Property values will RISE - this is how you can be a success. Problem, Industrial Giants will dominate the Waterfront and ROADSYSTEMS. Commuter systems will favour Heavy Industrial needs and people put on the Back burner.

It's NO SECRET that FREE DOWNTOWN PARKING is a KEY ELEMENT in its recovery.

I'm aware that successful downtown revitalization requires a lot of coordination of many elements ... here's another 'one' of those items: Any clock operating in the public realm needs to be fully functioning ... downtown will always have a blighted image unless these are fixed and maintained.

I live downtown and I must say the changes have been slow-slow-slow. The City needs to get rid of the Cash mart, Bingo halls and Dollar stores located on the main strip. Lister Block should be developed without delay and derelict buildings should be either sold or owners forced to develop the land or loose the building. All buildings need to maintain property standards and the right kind of stores need to establish themselves downtown. Without that the downtown will always look poor and dilapidated. Also, encouraging cobblestone streets on King St. as Mayor Di Ianni had planned in his wish list and removal of transit services in that area would do a lot to embellish the look of the downtown. Cleaning the gum off the sidewalks annually

I think that the City should partially base tax assessments on the number of people who live in a single dwelling and whether or not they have children. I.e., if you have six people living in a house they will have more garbage to be collected, use the services of the city more, will use more energy, water etc... and therefore, should be taxed at a higher rate than two people inhabiting a single dwelling. Also, if you charge those with kids a higher school tax levy in direct relation to the number of kids they have it would be a more fair determination of the tax assessment per household, as it is my opinion that those without children should not be charged for a service that they are not directly utilizing.

A lot of people actually have trouble finding a parking spot because the people have to pay for parking during the night.

I disagree that people should be given an insensitive to drive and park their cars downtown. Don't we want to get rid of the cars downtown? I believe that once there is good reason to go downtown, people will get there.

If there was a good interesting transit system (such as light rail) they'd use it, as would tourists. And if they wanted to drive, they'd pay. Right now, unfortunately, neither means of transportation is worth going downtown. I can't wait for a revitalized and beautiful downtown. If there was a festival on every weekend, our family would be there. That's what downtown cores are all about. Our residential streets are lined with historic row homes with so much potential. Give people reason to bring them back to life.

I have lived in central/downtown Hamilton for over 20 years and find my self in a safe, rich environment. I have friends however, who will not come to down town. Here is what they tell me. 'It looks so sad, all the stores I used to know are gone.'

However, both Hamilton Place and COPP's can be filled up on the same night Its just a lack of interesting things to do, and places to shop. Hamilton should stop beating itself up about its down town. If you go to Ottawa, you cannot even find a variety store open on the week ends. Wanting a vibrant down town and working towards it is in my view a good thing.

Redevelopment of boarded up buildings such as the Lister Building and Treble Hall should be a high priority for the City. Improvement to Property Standards and implementation of a stronger enforcement department is necessary. Downtown needs to be a high priority with the emphasis on the decentralization of social and community services to other areas of our community.

if you cut back on parking fees after 5 pm you'll have residents and their visitors park there, cut the fees and extend hours,, and business prefer suburbs, give them incentives and they will love downtown

Municipalities levy development charges as the main way of raising the money needed for required infrastructure to supply city services to new developments. Do you think that development charges, paid by developers, should cover the full cost of the required infrastructure and services needed or should taxpayers pay on an ongoing basis?- this question is incorrectly worded to answer yes or no- my answer is yes to developers paying the full cost

In order to increase access to the down town, more ample parking is required. There is simply not enough. There also needs to be an increased focus on reducing the vagrants and criminals, eliminating halfway houses in the down town core.

Encourage development of a large grocery store in the core. That way people won't need to use a car or public transit to get to a store where they can buy food, etc. and therefore have everything they need downtown and will want to remain downtown. You currently have to go to Dundurn St. or up onto the mountain to do any decent grocery shopping. Elimination of urban sprawl will also encourage development of the core.

Thank you so much for this. I really hope constructive change comes from it.

Development charges paid for developers should be designed to cover the full cost of infrastructure improvements for new developments.

Lower taxes, it is all about the \$\$

Do you think that development charges, paid by developers, should cover the full cost of the required infrastructure and services needed or should taxpayers pay on an ongoing basis?

DEVELOPERS SHOULD PAY! This way we may be able to encourage developers to choose infill projects as the infrastructure is already readily available thus creating a much denser, more livable community within the urban boundary (which also reflects the Gov. of Ontario's Greenbelt Program.

Downtown is the first and most important area that must be developed. The potential Spin-off opportunities are just waiting for us!

Introduce by-laws that stop the tarmac king of parking lots and open spaces. Too much cement and asphalt stops rain water from entering the soil, leeches pollution and adds to city heat. This type of form for citizens is a great idea, and we need more of these. Stop hiring consultants that charge too much when all you really need is the voices of the citizens. Make the Minutes of city hall tell more details of meetings so we are no longer forced to depend upon blogs as news. Allow community radio and community television to play a bigger part in getting city halls news out rather than looking only to corporate news to talk to the public.

Stop urban sprawl - build on what is already developed - redo, improve, increase urban density and prepare services to accommodate that: We need our agricultural lands and do not need more roads and traffic.

I would really like to see a change for the better in the bus service to and from Ancaster. Right now there is no service in too Ancaster after 6:20 in front of Fortino's on Mon, Tues, and wed and no service on the 5c going into Ancaster on sat or Sunday, plus no service before 9:10 from Meadowlands on sat morning. This makes it very difficult for me to get to work. There are business that open in Ancaster before 9am. Please make the Ancaster bus 16 and the 5C.

Free parking is a myth. Abolish it.

We need free on-street parking everywhere downtown and to make more of Main street curb-parking as well. For that matter, why is York Street and Bay 4 lanes wide? Too much has been given to the car and the future is about transit hubs.

When you say 'businesses have often favoured the suburbs', is that because they have been encouraged to locate in the burbs due to subsidized development and infrastructure?? Our Brownfield development (the Imperial Cotton Centre) is only able to receive city funds if the building were to be demolished. The city and the core work and have always worked. By trying to accommodate the car to the near exclusion of everything else (transit, pedestrians, rail) for 50 years, it is no surprise that the core has deteriorated.

It is my view that the department overseeing municipal parking needs an overhaul. One of the negatives to activity in the core is the perception of unfair imposition of tickets. If the tickets are justified, that's okay, but there is no doubt that over-zealous by-law officers, rude staff at adjudication office, meters which do not accept coins and much more add up to a Hamilton Municipal Parking System is not an asset but an impediment to Hamilton. No extra resources should pay for such a review...money should be allocated for it fro the current allocation.

I've never had a problem finding parking downtown though I do know some people do complain about it. I believe all cities have this problem....and I've never heard of them approaching it with the solution that they should make parking free. The attraction for people to come downtown should be big enough for them to feel alright about spending an extra \$5 on parking. I think we should worry more about supporting business growth in the downtown area by helping out with taxation and permits, making it a process that encourages, rather than discourage young, small businesses from opening up.

Downtown is the preferred location for high quality employers (see downtown Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal) and therefore downtown renewal has to be a priority.

Hamilton already has some of the cheapest downtown parking in the country (less than \$3 all day). It is simplistic to think that a perceived parking shortage is discouraging people from visiting downtown. People are willing to pay high rates for parking in downtown Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal (or even Halifax) because they want to spend time there. If there are interesting things to see and do downtown, people will spend time (and money) there. Providing huge areas of cheap parking in fact degrades downtown and makes people less likely to visit (as we have seen in Hamilton)

This is the most important issue facing the city. I cannot stress this enough. Hamilton cannot become simply a bedroom community for more profitable cities with better quality of jobs. The maple leaf debacle was sad enough. If you want to help this city, we must look to the future. Any city that was once a North American manufacturing centre has faced similar problems. Some have managed better than others.

In regards to free parking downtown, I am against all free parking, seeing as it encourages those to drive. I think parking lots across the city should be taxed heavily and therefore make a level playing field across the entire City. I do realize that business always say they require free parking to encourage customers, however, if we are trying to support the local businesses we should create a niche market whereby people will be attracted downtown by unique and one of a kind local shops, not the big box variety.

Please stop urban sprawl in & around Hamilton! PLEASE look at areas in Mississauga, Waterdown, North York. Look at the agriculture land given up to developers. We are loosing our small town family farms. Kids don't know where our food comes from. Make it impossible for developers to buy out families in Flamborough! Look at GREENSVILLE. Small family farms are gone due to the million dollar homes being built. Right on the CONNELL family land! These are the lands where you see abandoned homes on HWY 6 due to highway building. All this building means more land needed for shopping and more people driving to these shopping areas. Stop it before it all our green CORN stalks, cows and communities with a distinct CANADIAN feel disappear!

I love our downtown, even if it's not as vibrant as it once was, I feel safer downtown than I do in almost any other part of this city when I'm walking at night. I love being able to walk around and go into shops that I can't find anywhere else.

Thank you for the opportunity to fill this out

Property taxes are high enough already. The Red Hill expressway acts as an incentive to live and shop outside of downtown (urban sprawl), so make the cars that use it pay for it. Make it expensive to drive, and slow down traffic so it takes lots longer to get somewhere. That will reduce urban sprawl, plus improve air quality, etc. Outlaw boarded up buildings in the downtown. Get the GO Train to come through the downtown as an express, and more than a couple of times per day. Takes more than one hour to get to Toronto with the current milk run train schedule, people may as well drive, and also provide parking for GO train users. Also, could attract more people to live in Hamilton if they could more easily commute to Toronto.

Downtown heritage development is critical and must be tied directly to the creation of affordable housing in the core, opportunities for artists to develop their skills and access to employment and educational venues. People should be encouraged to move downtown, to walk to work or use public transit to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gases. The preservation of Hamilton's architectural and historic heritage must remain a high priority.

Improved public transit should be a priority - bus and train.

I fully support the street cleanup program that Hamilton already has, but maybe there could be some sort of volunteer program started that would help out small business owners who are victims of the urban decay which is so evident in the downtown core. I'd like to see some sort of fund or initiative to clean up the downtown core storefronts, with materials maybe donated or given at cost to fix up the stores. New paint, awnings, trims. I think that if you show the city that you care by working together as a team, instead of relying on individual storeowners to clean up their property themselves, it would have a greater response. They are the victims in the situation, and probably want to make the downtown a thriving center again.

We need to enhance our public transit -- paying for it through increased fees at the time would target the working poor. This is an essential to address public transit from a larger perspective (GTA/Hamilton perspective).

To improve the perception of safety, especially downtown, would involve attracting people to come downtown and see the changes. I would on the mountain and live downtown. Ninety percent of the people who work with me do not live downtown nor do they go downtown -- they don't think it is safe and they avoid it. A lot of work would have to be done to change this perception.

The direction inferred in this survey is positive and indicates someone is looking at sustainability and livability for our city. Now let's do it.

We have definitely improved the downtown by the renovations to the art gallery! Increasing shows at HECFI buildings can only help. Again I would state that nothing is more annoying & looks bad for the city, than going to a concert or play or the gallery and always being stopped & asked for change. The police presence in the core has increased but needs to keep that level and even increased more wouldn't hurt!

City doesn't actually do any transit planning - all we are doing is operating a system using old ideas and wondering why we keep losing rider ship.

Lister Block is an example of something that is important but nobody politically has shown any leadership in getting it done - show some insight and vision and make a decision!!

Red Hill should be user pay but commercial should pay for majority.

The issue downtown is not lack of parking, but of parking lots crippling the downtown experience. The parking lots are "missing teeth" breaking the continuity of downtown. They consume space that could be used for housing, increasing aggregate demand in the community. Suburban Hamilton has written off downtown with ridiculous ideas of how dangerous it is. Rebuilding downtown will come from densification -- building new residential, perhaps tied to improved GO links into exurban Toronto. Getting Queen's Park to raise social assistance and ODSP rates will also pump paying demand into the core. Finally, a city emphasizing quality of life over sprawl is likely to attract the creative professionals that aid in urban renewal.

Gas taxes have been quite effective in the U.S. We also need more funding from federal and provincial governments.

Hamilton has too much free and discount parking as it is, including zoning by-laws that require "free" parking at commercial establishments. This produces a false economy that incentives driving at the expense of all other modes and consumes land that could otherwise provide more high quality destinations, while costing taxpayers and retail customers more money. Please read The High Cost of Free Parking by Donald Shoup, an economist and urban planner, for more details.

Stop urban sprawl!! The amount of revenue collected for each individual home built in our suburbs is less than the City actually needs to collect to maintain it! We need to encourage more condo-development, more multi-residential dwelling, and specifically in the downtown area. There's no reason for people to avoid the core and if there was more affordable housing for young working adults, there would be more local traffic, resulting in a stronger local economy.

Hamilton's downtown needs more life, more young adults (and not-so-young ones too!), more cultural focus, more colour. We've done enough damage, let's turn around and promote Hamilton as the prosperous, cultural, beautiful CITY that it is and could be. "

Transit must be improved at but not by raising bus fares. There is a direct correlation between increased fares and lowered rider ship. Also increasing bus fares is essentially a tax on the poor.

In a time when we have to do everything we can to lower greenhouse gasses improving access to transit is the right idea.

Fixing the Downtown is key. Attract the right employers...provide incentives for people to live downtown. We CANNOT continue to increase urban sprawl without spending more to increase our core density. Introduce a program to attract a person to live in the core...not something superficial but something that has real teeth and gets people talking.

Market the downtown to students as a place to live, shop, and study. Most students never venture east of Hess and thus miss out on the wonders of the downtown. Large influxes of educated, creative youth into the core would inject life back into the shopping, entertainment, and public transit sectors. Beautiful and affordable accommodations are available in the core, just 15 minutes by bus from campus, but due to a lack of knowledge, students crowd into the west end residential neighborhoods-- young people belong in the core!

Free parking costs money and benefits no-one. It just encourages a hand full of cars to park all day, eating up space that could be used to build businesses or residences. Want to solve the "parking problem"? Create all-day metered parking on all downtown streets, including King, Main, York & Cannon. Don't worry about traffic. You aren't supporting downtown businesses by making it easy to drive past them all.

I urge you to make downtown redevelopment a higher priority. Specifically, enforcing stricter penalties on land owners who allow their buildings to crumble (Lister Block/Taxation Building/HMP Motors lot. I've led many tours throughout Hamilton in the last few years, and most often, the lasting impressions have been formed by the empty boarded-up buildings that lay crumbling downtown. As Mary Soderstrom recently wrote in her book Green City: 'Today, to drive down the main arterials is to pass through an area that looks like it had been bombed.' I couldn't agree more...please be the Mayor that beautifies the downtown core. Start by fixing the Lister. Thanks for letting Hamiltonians voice their opinions."

Residents shouldn't have to pay to park when visiting their City Hall - especially short term.

Improved transit will eliminate the need for free parking on city streets. The core of the city is the future, we need people walking on the streets, not driving to a store and leaving.

The BEST possible thing you could do to revitalize the downtown would be to reinstate two-way streets on Main and King. As I understand it, this was the single greatest factor in the deterioration of our once vibrant downtown core. Toronto, with its bustling and busy downtown, should really be a model for us on this one, and we should stop treating Main and King like small highways. No one wants to walk on those streets because of the heavy, noisy traffic. Make everything 2-way again and I guarantee the downtown will begin to come alive again.

I would prefer to see funding to cities for public transit coming from taxes on vehicles, licensing and fuel taxes and all costs associated with running personal vehicles than from either property taxes or raises fares for transit.

I believe that development charges should reflect any foreseen services for new growth, but I also believe taxpayers who decide to live in less efficient developments should also have a responsibility to pay for the services they require. This is a shared responsibility of both those who develop these new areas as well as those who inhabit them.)



I don't think taxpayers should have to subsidize car usage - what about free public transit instead at those times/days?

In terms of Downtown Revitalization, I believe there's only so much the City can do- and that role definitely has to be one of support and offering incentive. I believe"

In either case - I think that the responsibility should fall on both the developer and the resident. Developing more suburban areas with no infrastructure should be discouraged.

Take a look around; very few cities really have any 'downtown' anymore. That's a fact of life and wasting more money on trying to go backwards is not a constructive plan."

Downtowns may have historical value, but in Hamilton's case, all the historical value was torn down years ago. That's why it's an eyesore now. If we had left the downtown the way it was in the 50's, we probably wouldn't have a lot of the problems we have today. Do you think large windows could be installed in the Ellen Fairclough building. The place looks like a prison. Find ways to use provincial/municipal buildings, in the evening, for entertainment. The city needs to be used/visited in the evening. it will help keep the crack addicts and other pathetic, but violent souls out of the downtown core - find a way to get rid of that strip joint - ask the Salvation Army to move back to York street.

A combination of better free parking and improved public transit should be used to encourage more visits to the downtown core. Awareness campaigns on buying locally, and marketing aimed at improving the image of public transit would go a long way to diverting consumers to downtown.

There is a vision to be found-it is important to have sustainable buildings, modest growth and careful development, and find better sources and uses for energy and water. A diversity of healthy lifestyle choices should be made available.

Rather than raising taxes or bus fares, could the focus of the transportation department shift slightly from cars to alternatives? The fewer cars on the road, the less cost of infrastructure, road building & maintenance, and it is better for both health and the environment. Realistically, in order for this to happen, public transit needs to be more attractive, fast, convenient, smooth, comfortable, safe and all-around more sexy design. (tax-deductible monthly pass? bike lanes on all major routes?)"

If you're going to have toll roads, do not sell or outsource the toll collection. All money should go directly to covering the cost of construction and the toll should be discontinued as planned.

If the governments encouraged office-workers to telecommute (or rather encourage companies to have telecommuting), the city would have less issue with roads. I think everyone's pretty sick of parking along the 403/QEW. With fewer cars, the roads would have less strain and there'd be cleaner air thanks to less needless idling. PLUS, Hamilton wouldn't be the city at the end of the traffic jam anymore... I think that would help

Additional funding for the transit system is not needed if no one is using it. The city needs to do more to encourage the system's use and it can start by taking simple measures by ensuring buses are clean and drivers are friendly! Increasing bus fares only makes taking transit less accessible to those who really need it (i.e. low income) Again Q#5 is double-barreled.

More frequent updates of the transit website i.e.: a facts/figures, and phone section, even have its own unique site that can be added to bus fleet paint scheme.

What about attracting more RESIDENTS to the downtown with safe, clean and affordable housing? If people live there, the businesses will follow. Ensure safe bike routes to the downtown and sufficient bike racks."

Lack of parking is one of the key barriers to accessing the downtown area. We should also consider reverting back to the pre-existing one-way streets. The two way streets cause more grid-lock making people like myself who used to enjoy going downtown to avoid it at all costs.

Perhaps we should also consider attracting corporations like Chapters or Silver City into the downtown core. But to attract such businesses we probably have to reduce the taxes charged within the core and increase the taxes in places like Meadowlands."

Downtown renewal needs to be a priority, NOT greenfield expansion!!

Fancy signs and sidewalks will NOT solve Hamilton's problems downtown - more significant tax incentives and renewal projects need to be developed

The City should make POLLUTERS pay - therefore, I support additional user fees for car drivers, and subsidies for public transit!

Overall, the city needs to be more proactive in its planning. It is clear that our current models are unsustainable, and that they are making us sick (e.g., obesity, air pollution) - the city needs to lead the way, rather than operating reactively and in a piecemeal way."

Thanks for taking the initiative to consult in a fairly accessible way!

I have hope that Mayor Eisenberger and his council will be able to reverse the effect of some of the disastrous decisions made during the last few years by making better choices for future growth. Vision 20/20 needs to be incorporated into future decisions in a real way.

It's rather obvious that if a developer wants to make money on building houses it should first have to pay the full cost of setting up the houses including getting them bus service. But the focus should be sticking to the urban boundary at all costs. That includes not expanding out the airport lands! As I said at the beginning of the survey in the first section, in my life the thing that is the most lacking is RELIABLE and TIMELY bus service. I also believe given the current level of service that the transit system is OVERPRICED and hence underused. Instead of giving free parking after five maybe u should give free transit after five!!!!

Red Hill and box city developments are the biggest disasters of the past decade. GO THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION: DOWNTOWN. Charge for use of expressway. Improve connections between Mountain and downtown, including safe bikeways up and down. Possibly a "ski-lift" to help cyclists up the mountain would be a novelty. Developers must pay dearly for infrastructure, except downtown. Do something about Jackson square. Create more life/activity/improved streetscape in Gore Park. Get the big stuff right, small stuff like street cleaning will follow. Prosecute unruly behavior downtown.

Don't increase taxes, eliminate wasteful spending.

Make waterfront the key...it must be connected to downtown such as a James Street or other street. Stop the dependency on government institutions. Get them moved. As long as we have psychotics and vagrants in the downtown core, nothing you do will bring families back. If you move the government institutions to a different area or spread them around the city you reduce the risk. Get rid of the one way streets...make them two way. Get rid of the stripper bars. Plant flowers, Get an NHL team, or other major sport franchise. Put it on the water front. Build a huge industrial mall to house different trade shows. Privatize Chedoke Golf and Ski Park. Control the airport management better - reinvest funds from Flamborough downs into downtown.

Pedestrian Zones, as in Europe (e.g., Heidelberg, Amsterdam...) make for wonderful pedestrian shopping and community. Is there some way that a section of the downtown core could be made car-free?

I thought free parking was dead and buried. Alas no! Like a decomposing corpse it rises zombie-like from the grave to stalk the downtown once again. The Horror!

Do you want to know a surefire sign of a thriving downtown? The parking sucks! People don't care. They'll pay whatever it takes if a destination is attractive enough. The only people who might be attracted by free parking are the suburban whiners who wouldn't come downtown if you paid them to park. Don't let them control the downtown development agenda! See this article for more:

Tolls are ok.

There are many hints at an increase in taxes; this is a sign of poor leadership. Throwing more money at problems only increases wasteful spending. Too bad the city has this option, if you were a business that was forced to become more efficient or go bankrupt and lose your job, the chances are that you would figure out how to become more efficient and reduce wastefulness. When you have the option to increase taxes, you don't bother looking for waste and taxpayers are hurt financially.

I think the perception of downtown has to change. Parts of the downtown remind me of a ghetto. I am afraid of the downtown and I do not feel safe. There are nice pockets, but I have no desire to come downtown unless I have no choice, and I know a lot of people feel that way. This perception has to change, but how do you get rid of this perception. When I worked at the Health Department at the old Right House, I hated going out the front, because of the crowds in front of the Welfare office downtown. I just don't feel Safe in the downtown.

WE NEED TO ATTRACT MORE HEAD AND REGIONAL OFFICES TO HAMILTON. FULL DAY GO TRANSIT TO AND FROM TORONTO AND TO AND FROM THE OTHER OUTLYING AREAS (BRANT, NIAGARA) HAMILTON MUST BECOME THE ALTERNATIVE TO DOWNTOWN TORONTO. BECAUSE WE DO HAVE A REAL DOWNTOWN! (CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO DOWNTOWN VAUGHAN?) IT ALWAYS AMAZES ME THE ECONOMIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DOES NOT SELL HAMILTON THIS WAY!"

The downtown is real bone of contention with me. It's become an eye sore and a place for folks of ill repute. Get the rabble off the streets so people aren't scared to be downtown and the people will come. If folks are worried about crack heads, they won't be parking downtown to visit the AGH or do their shopping. The market is a great thing. Promote it with free parking. Spend money to develop heritage sites, recognize our history with restoration. Hold more events in the core and give businesses a reason to be there.

If you clean it up and give people entertainment, shopping and dining options, the people will come. Tax incentives and well-kept streets and buildings will bring businesses to the core and give them a reason.

Stop wasting money. It seems like so much money is wasted on advertising and promoting things. For example, what would have to be done to recruit more doctors? If we have so many buses that have gone 'green' why is the Mayor driving an SUV?

HAMILTON--WE ARE THE LINK BETWEEN NIAGARA AND TORONTO. ONCE WE HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR DOWNTOWN, WE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO OUR LINKS. THE RED HILL IS ALREADY ON THE MOVE, AND WHAT HAS THE CITY FORECASTED TO THAT? IT WILL BRING TRAVEL FROM NIAGARA, LOCALLY, ETC. TEAR DOWN ALL THE HOUSING IN THE NORTH-EAST END (BURLINGTON ST/PARKDALE/BARTON/EASTWARD) CREATE YOUR NEW BUSINESSES HERE-LIKE ANOTHER BUSINESS DISTRICT. THIS WOULD ALSO CREATE NEW TENANTS IN ANY EMPTY WAREHOUSING ALONG BURLINGTON STREET WITH EASY HIGHWAY ACCESS. YOU WILL HAVE TO STRENGTHEN OR RE-BUILD THE BURLINGTON STREET OVERPASS. USE YOUR SMART MARKETING DEPARTMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENTS FOR THE OTHER RED HILL OFF RAMPS. THEN DO THE SAME TO THE WEST END LIKE I MENTIONED

City hall does not plan, it interferes.

Our current state of affairs is glaring proof of that Council does not have the skills to manage any sort of local economy. Get back to doing the jobs government was intended to do.

HSR services should be paid for by fares. Bike racks should be charged for as one fare per bike as the HSR is costing itself one fare by making a one direction bike ride possible.

I do not think it is fair for some city employees that must pay for daily parking and some staff does not have to pay. I think City staff should either ALL have to pay or ALL not have to pay for parking when they are at work.

Downtown Hamilton has great potential to be the common meeting place again. Over the last few years although 'un-strategic' planning had allowed the small business sector to seek 'big-box' department stores in the suburban areas, through mass development of spider-web surveys where people are incapable of embracing public transit. Such ideas must be reviewed and create a long term plan for urban-core attraction. We must bring back downtown as the one place to be.

Issues of parking, safety must be eradicated at the root, through enforcement and policing. Expand the video camera program.

Renew all falling buildings and statues and give incentives to those who invest in downtown. We will all be glad we did in the long run.

As far as downtown development goes, I work outside of the city and when I get home (around 6pm) nothing is open anyways so even if I wanted to go to say, Jackson Square it's not open. Obviously businesses aren't going to open there doors when there is no traffic, but if we can make it more appealing, then people would want to come around. I've always wondered why there isn't a large discount dept. store in Jackson Square. Wal-Mart or Zellers would probably do quite well there.

In Burlington you can shop for an hour at small businesses in downtown with free parking.

Instead of increasing property taxes, I think wasted money should be recovered from other areas of the city's resources.

Enforce anti loitering & littering practices, provide more benches & shelters at bus stops for the elderly & frail

Has the two-way system on James & John really helped or has it just caused more idling as cars wait in line to turn off (especially at Charlton) or to get around stopped delivery trucks etc (esp. on James between. Robinson & Charlton)

PLEASE SEE ABOVE, MAKE IT SAFE, PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY. GET RID OF THE BEGGING BUMS. I WAS ACCOSTED 5 TIMES WALKING UP JAMES ST TO KING. WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY DO NOT FEEL SAFE. ANY ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESSES MUST BE TIED TO CREATING REAL JOBS FOR LOCAL INDIVIDUALS WITH TRAINING FOR ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO REINVENT THE WHEEL---SEE WHAT NEW YORK CITY DID UNDER GUILIANI- HIRED MORE POLICE-ZERO TOLERANCE= REVIVED ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS=MORE TAXES. SEE WHAT WAS DONE IN GLASGOW AND APPLY TO OLD BUILDINGS, KEPT THE FACADE AND REBUILT THE WHOLE BUILDING FOR THE LISTER BLOCK. INCREASE MASS TRANSIT EXPONENTIALLY- BUSES EVERY 10 MINS DURING RUSH HOUR AND 15 MINS OUTSIDE/DAY PASSES. EXPENSIVE IN BEGINNING BUT WILL PAY DIVIDENDS-GAS CRUNCH.

Parking down town stops most people I know from coming down because there is every thing they need on the mountain and don't pay for parking.

I suggested free parking on weekends a long time ago. Kitchener has it and it does draw me here to the market on a Saturday because of it. Then we stay for breakfast and shopping. This ripple effect could be experienced here too.

Hybrid vehicles should get free parking all the time. Please get the bike racks on the buses! You may find rider ship increase.

Downtown - Places like the Tivoli and the Lister Block have taken up a lot of City time and money. Get them FLATTENED. That in itself is a start. Any program/policy that starts to make the City look better is a GO.

Thank you for this opportunity to put forth some of my pet peeves and some ideas/suggestions. Now.....will anyone really ready this?

There should be free parking in downtown all day. Maybe with a 2 hour limit.

Ensure that areas south of Stone Church Road on the mountain receive the same funding for Public Works as those north of Stone Church.

The City is expanding and Rymal Road has become a busy major thoroughway although there have been minimal upgrades to the existing infrastructure in the area to accommodate the increase in volume. In many places along Rymal Road E there are no sidewalks and there is no sheltered bus-stop at the corner of Rymal and Upper Sherman. Many mothers/fathers with young children in strollers have to push them on gravel shoulders as there are no sidewalks.

While I am concerned about the capacity on the Red Hill Creek Expressway and the Linc, I expect the economics that it will bring to Hamilton to outweigh the requirement of a toll.

Parking availability/free parking has nothing to do with the vibrancy of cities. Do people flock to Toronto or London because of their widely available parking spaces? Please, let's get with the times, people.

Work with province to move jail, halfway houses etc out of downtown. Encourage construction of condo buildings downtown. Produce power from heat related to steel production. Clean up city departments reduce waste encourage constructive criticism. Do not lie when promoting city honestly weigh stench and weaknesses. Efficient developments that will benefit the city for ever and not become brown fields in 50 years.

I think the increase in funding to the transit needs to be funded by both methods. The payback will be that if the transit system is 1st class it will be used more. Using the call to see when the bus is coming system may help. I have found that for the most part buses are on time or late (not often) rather than early which is good.

I would be in favour of a toll on the Red Hill Expressway as long as there is a guarantee that it would be discontinued after so much money was raised.

I also think some of my gas tax money should be paid to municipalities to help keep main roads at an acceptable level in terms of usage.

If you really want people to come downtown then remove all parking fees, get rid of the half-way houses, move the courts outside the city, arrest people for vagrancy, and put the social service offices outside the downtown as well.

Increasing densities can only be achieved if it goes hand in hand with increased facilities, services and infrastructure. If the Province (and the Feds) insists on intensification then it follows that it should buck up for the costs of the additional Facilities. How much of the additional taxes will be used to subsidize Toronto? Fair apportionment of taxes and funding must accompany the increases. Business shouldn't need incentives. If the market is there they will come. We mustn't put the horse before the cart. The question should be how do we get people back into the core?

There still seems to be a focus on getting rid of current downtown residents to make the place attractive to suburbanites who do not like living in dense, urban centres and are unlikely to return. There needs to be a greater focus on training and employing current area residents so they can be part of the core revitalization. Build a city suited to the people who live in it.

Transit needs to go to new growth areas, smaller rapid transit from airport to downtown, stop at hotels. Bus service across Rymal east to west, direct bus from Lime ridge to McMaster, and from Lime ridge to East gate.

Bike route not on major streets - Ottawa model. Money up front but benefits later.

Parking policy whole issue needs to be looked at. Side street and lots use meters with cheap rates. Get lots of people on side street and looking in shops. Cheap parking battles the malls free parking of course not a Jackson square, where city & mall needs patrons. Free could lead to abuse...need a system that allow bar patrons to leave cars without being ticketed or towed. (Don't drink & drive)but don't leave car either? what message is being sent.

Encourage residential developments downtown help developers clean brown fields for residential development. Encourage clean manufacturing around airport and port

Hi-rise residential developments downtown. Seize and auction off derelict buildings in bad repair. Move halfway houses out of downtown remove prison from downtown. Add a casino, attract wealthy single people downtown create high tech employment. Decrease social service spending, aid people to resettle in Alberta

All vehicles should pay a toll. I expect I will use the expressway. However cost of driving should be born by the users which will also encourage the use of public transport.

Parking free downtown would attract more buyers in the retail sector.

Revenue from the casino in Flamborough. The revenue should benefit the taxes paid by all Hamiltonians and not only those living in Flamborough. It is an outrage to even think of decreasing only their taxes from this revenue. Also, I recently heard that the city cleans all of the residential sidewalks in Ancaster. I hope that this is not true. I will be looking into this matter. If anyone should be getting sidewalks shoveled, it should be senior citizens regardless of where they live.

Cleaning the downtown needs to be the first priority. I pickup my wife weekly from downtown. I am struck by the garbage and debris littering the street. I would be much more prone to spend time downtown if it were somewhat cleaner and maintained.

Make downtown a spot that people want to go. Not to get dope as it is presently the only thing that has not panhandled downtown is the statue and the nativity scene. CLEAN IT UP.

Bay front park - make access easier and have more festivals like Aqua-fest.

Idling vehicles. Let's start with the city owned vehicles.

Brown fields should be priority with the city covering development costs to get business and builders in. Parking should be free all the time. The collection cost can't justify the revenue. Restore one way streets. What a disaster that plan was.

HEARD IT ALL BEFORE WITH NO RESULTS. ONLY FRIENDS OF THE CITY HALL MADE ANY PROFIT. WHAT IS THIS THAT WE GIVE INTEREST FREE LOANS TO CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES THAT OWE THE CITY BACK TAXES!!! WHY IS THE CITY NO GOING AFTER THEM YOU WOULD IF IT WAS A CITIZEN PAYING TAXES....

The city has done a good job of cleaning the streets of crime. But until a lot more is done, the downtown core is dead. I don't care how good the sale is, I know people who will not go downtown because they do not feel safe. INSTALL MORE CAMERAS they are a great idea.

Get rid of parking meters all together and make parking downtown free. I never go down near Gore Park or east of there. I don't think it is safe and there isn't anything really nice in that area besides Theatre Aquarius. I would never let my boys go down town to the core unless they are with an adult and even then, only to the Art Gallery or Hamilton Place. I think our downtown area around Gore Park and east of it is gross. It's dirty and the people are scary.

Improving perception of safety downtown is not enough. Safety must be improved. Why is there so much crime around King and James North when there are cameras?

Get some consistency in daytime cost of parking in city lots. I pay for monthly parking (for health reasons) but my lot has increased rate much faster than others downtown. If roads and buses had been better maintained and route more convenient, I would still be using public transit but got tired of arriving to work nauseated every day."

By having totally free parking after 5 pm, private residents will monopolize this. There should be more CCTV cameras in the core. Also, the City should look at Traffic Cameras throughout the city (like Toronto) so people can watch TV or go online and see which local roads are bad in terms of traffic congestion. There should be more focus on the Waterfront -- establish a Hess Village type area at the Waterfront to draw people down there, this would draw people downtown thus demand increases for new residential development. The City needs to invest in its Special Events office -- it is terrible right now, need innovative staff, increased monies for grants and develops an inventory of assets so event planners can use what the City has.

Downtown needs a BRT or LRT system. Historical significance of buildings should be considered, but so long as new structures adding character, functionality and charm to the downtown core are built to replace them, I support the demolition of old buildings, such as the Lister block.

The downtown is a lost cause. My Idea would be to bulldoze the old derelict buildings and promote residential high rises in their place. The only way to rejuvenate the downtown is to get people there. People do not want to go downtown as it is, so if more people become residents of downtown it would attract other people and businesses.

The current city tax system is not fair to all areas of the city. All taxes should be based on your assessment and not by the area of the city that you live in as it presently is. Also certain areas of the city get better services than others."

I not sure I believe research shows that a healthy and vibrant downtown boosts the economic health and quality of life in a community. The only city I can think of that the statement holds true for is Toronto. It seems only the cities with Casino's have had re-vitalization. I am pretty sure Hamilton isn't promoting a Casino. The addition of many new condos' downtown seems to be working to first get the people downtown then provide the new businesses. It is a scary thought of the costs of replacement of the downtown infrastructure. I am not sure I want to have all the additional costs added to my taxes.

We did live downtown and enjoyed walking everywhere. Now there isn't much to walk to since we don't play bingo or like the atmosphere around Gore Park. Red Hill Expressway will be used by trucks as a short cut around the Bay. They will also cause the most damage to it over time so they should help pay for it- all commercial vehicles including those from outside of Ontario.

Hamilton homeowners pay enough in tax, we don't need to pay a toll on the highway as well.

There is no shortage of agricultural land. Protecting agricultural land would only drive up the cost of real estate in the city (a key advantage for Hamilton) and drive away residents and business. Growth is market driven, if people want to live downtown, why are there not more developments happening there already? If people are restricted to where they can develop in a city then business and residents will leave that city.

If you want to renew downtown, stop building subsidized housing, homeless shelters, and clinics there. Who wants to build/buy a condo or business next to a half-way house? Lowering business taxes would also help."



There are a couple of big mountain routes and a couple of small ones. I suggest you limit buses to juncture points at the base & top. All buses can stop there and the 'passenger travel' up and down can be done by a more efficient method (i.e. rail or shuttle). This would cut down on gas, maintenance, emissions as well as traffic and it might give you your needed money without tax or fare increases.

Thanks for your time. The city needs to get rid of the ugly parking lots downtown... a building comes down... the gravel goes in and car...no green, no park. As long people have to pay for parking, shopping will be done away from the downtown core. Stop the King street and Main street highway on both at least build one lane PROTECTED from the cars a bike lane

Contractors should also be held responsible for damages caused to aging infrastructure by movement of heavy vehicles over culverts and through existing older developments. One thing missing in the downtown core is a grocery store. One would think with all the vacant properties in the core that we could attract even a local grocery store.

Downtown offers nothing (in terms of shopping) to most of the population. Unfortunately the downtown merchants have not bothered to keep up. This situation is unrecoverable. Focus your efforts to professional, medical and business opportunities. Consumers are NOT coming back; you missed the boat on this one years ago.

I don't want to pay the expressway on my taxes. I think the tolls for locals be discounted to that of out of town people.

I am disappointed there are no questions regarding our recreation centers and programs offered. We have 4 children. In the past we were offered discounts when registering 4 children for programs at recreation centers such as swimming lessons. This was removed approximately 5 years ago and now we pay the full amount for all our children. Our older 2 children no longer enroll in any of the programs offered - however for others we would like to see a family discount offered at our rec centers again.

Free parking would be a big help for downtown. However, while this area has been deteriorating, there have sprung up other vibrant "downtown" areas. The fact that the core is in poor shape is not a death toll for the city of Hamilton, it is a very large city. There are many Hamiltonians who never venture downtown.

I have worked Downtown for 18 years without incident, but when I ask people why they dislike Downtown , it is always perception of safety ,women, dirt, and bad mix of people. Count the suits in first 3 blocks of King, there are few. People also irrationally hate parking fees.

Free parking downtown after 5pm on weekdays benefits only a handful of restaurants and perhaps some galleries. Nothing is open after 5pm on a weekday, so what is the point?

I'm not sure where the perception that Hamilton is unsafe comes from. Hamilton is extremely safe community. Have people not visited other cities to compare? Increased evening business [restaurants, galleries, night spots etc.] in the core will help change this perception.

Paying for parking downtown is one of the best reasons for not going down there.

Need more sporting and entertainment events downtown to attract people, with free parking. Attract big names to Copps and Hamilton Place.

Encourage condo development downtown and continue to close places like the sandbar.

Downtown can be pretty scary along King Street.

Redhill should be toll for trucks- I live 2 blocks away from the Linc and can not open my windows during the summer because of the noise but I did not get any \$ for new windows.

Put up decent noise barriers- I don't think chain link is a sufficient noise reducer"

Question 4 is a two part answer that can't be answered with a yes or no response.

Downtown has gone down hill over the years. I remember going downtown every weekend with my mom. Now I am afraid to go downtown and don't take my children down there. Get rid of the halfway houses, strip joints & hangouts for problem people. Businesses don't want to open there because it's a dump. I had family from Kitchener stay downtown for our wedding 12yrs ago & they were appalled at what it was like. I would be afraid to go down there at night and worry when my niece does. If you get rid of the bums & advertise how it's been cleaned up, more businesses may be willing to move there.

Disappointed but still hopeful the new Mayor will figure out why he really got the job. Stop taxing us out of our homes.

Suicide prevention comes to mind as with the extremely high mental health population and lack of a suicide prevention/awareness mandate in Hamilton it concerns me to what will happen in Hamilton's future. I have researched to find Hamilton's Suicide Prevention Community Council does not have a Hamilton suicide prevention strategy. This concerns me as it indicates our school boards, public health, CMHA, etc., cannot work together in this initiative. I must also mention substance abuse, child neglect, divorce, etc. These are going to become an issue and Hamilton needs to build a better foundation for our unemployed."

Stop the renovations at City Hall. Even after the renovations are complete, it is still an old building that doesn't house all civic employees. It is a waste of money. I would rather spend double the money and do it right. Tear it down and build a city hall that can house all of the employees. Tear down the Lister Block. That nonsense has gone on far too long. Get some cranes in the sky line! Business, people and money want to be a part of something that is growing and moving forward, not stuck in the past. I work downtown and I am tired of being asked if I have spare change. Get the drug dealing derelicts away from King & James. Send a message: have the social services department hire fraud investigators and make an example of a few people

I have lived in the Hamilton area for 3 years, and think that the City needs to concentrate on revitalizing the downtown core in order to bring more business and tourists to the area. Hamilton has small jewel areas, but the downtown core is in need of a change. I would also suggest that any social service programs and/or offices be moved away from the downtown area, in order to change the environment.

Public transit must be supported by the province.

Amalgamation has simply played off the City against the 'Burbs & the Burbs won...in some ways. The burbs got new big box business' but lost their beauty, unique flavour, their old small & medium sized businesses, there moderate traffic, & their heart. The City lost stores, & businesses, people, jobs, & wealth. It lost its vitality, & became poorer in all ways.

Most areas provide free parking during peak shopping times. Why shop, go to a film or a restaurant with a fee to park, if you can have the same experience without a fee. (Maybe even closer to home?)

Public transit provides incentive, but if people in the burbs have poor service esp. evenings & weekends, they will drive & park, or stay away.

I don't frequent the downtown because I hate paying for parking. I would like to see a friendlier cycling city. I enjoy cycling many places but it is unsafe to cycle on area roads with no bike lanes.

I must reiterate that the HSR service as it stands is AWFUL. For the most part you have collected drivers that are grouchy, uncooperative, and frequently late, who pull out willy-nilly into traffic after signaling ONCE, and are more a danger than asset to our city streets. The HSR needs a major overhaul to become a viable use of our tax dollars in my eyes.

I would trust the politicians to remove the toll once the expressway was paid for

Let's fix what we have before we go off on other major mega projects.

I believe most of these questions (in all categories) require a great deal of education to understand. Many people, even if they can find the web site, won't understand the questions. I could be wrong; it seems that it's limited to the few who'll understand.

Increase police visibility in the downtown core ten fold....

The city should create a master plan for revitalization of the downtown core consisting of new residential, retail, and commercial developments. The city should then proceed to carry out the plan by purchasing and developing property, offering loans to developers, tax incentives, marketing, free parking - whatever it takes to get it done. There doesn't appear to be any master plan at the present time. Also, we should put restrictions on urban sprawl to help foster development of the inner city and waterfront.

When the day comes that Economic Development is the first priority of the City of Hamilton we will have a bright future.

Intensify, develop density and mixed use along public transit corridors

We are experiencing the effect of downloading and so many social costs with little ""breaks"" from either the Federal or Provincial Government. Good Luck to everyone in the continued ""battle"" to make our city a better place. I just gave a presentation to local MPPs staff regarding the myhamilton.ca portal and on how many great things are in Hamilton. I have been trying to market these good assets to many outsiders.

I do support term limits for politicians in order to get some ""new blood"" into the mix and perhaps ""new ideas"" but also recognizing that experience is helpful in the mix. I do believe that appointments to committees or boards might be better served if these too had term limits.

Regarding the Red Hill Expressway - charge a user fee/toll until the road is paid off (similar to the skyway). I believe this is the fairest way to recover the cost.

Downtown development is needed - look at attracting the artists by providing reduced rent for artist rentals and seek out rental to McMaster for utilizing some space.

Think long-term and invest in Hamilton's citizens.

Redhill Expressway has cost us enough already. I have no idea how to finance such a misguided project.

Municipal Government must encourage citizen involvement, and not favour a select few. There is much talent which is currently being ignored and marginalized. When citizens feel proud of the City and truly feel they have a role to play, Hamilton things will improve. Perhaps have occasional 'Town Hall' meetings - lots of folk do not have computers (and it is a very impersonal way of gathering information anyway.) INVOLVE EVERYONE!

Increased funding for public transit needs to come from another source. Not ticket price, not taxes. Find cross-promotional partners that would help with the cost. For example, TIRES: if you use a specific brand name, advertise for them and they cut their price for you.

Need to add a pedestrian-area to downtown to make it fun, desirable and peaceful.

Any residents feel that downtown Hamilton is dangerous. It is not, so we need to get the word out. The owners of Jackson Square need to be prodded to upgrade the facility. It's far more successful than most downtown malls and usually filled with people, but it doesn't have the higher end retail to attract suburban resident's downtown for shopping. This might be because of its 1970's style. King St needs better quality retail. Right now there are too many pawn shops and convenience stores. We have tons of pedestrian traffic downtown, so there is potential for some better retail. King St south of Gore Park should be integrated with Gore Park to make an attractive public square. This space should then be the centre of all Hamilton's cult. I think that all of the former municipalities should have market days and areas set aside by the city for those days to occur.

Because we have limited space downtown we should be preserving our parking spaces and increasing it if possible. Giving parking incentives (free). And we should be either using the existing old buildings, demolishing them and starting over, or selling them so business can demolish them and start over again. I think we need to modernize our downtown.

Hamilton agriculture and agri-tourism needs to be maintained and encouraged. Exemptions for livestock, etc for farmlands formerly in outlying municipalities needs to be explored, and speculators should be discouraged from displacing farmers on the hopes that land will be easily rezoned. I have seen streets and streetlights installed on lands before the application to have them rezoned have even been heard. This is arrogance on the part of the developers and a blemish on the part of the City for permitting it.

People will establish businesses downtown if you stop letting them pave over pastures to the south, east and north of the former Hamilton boundaries."

I really appreciate and commend this whole survey initiative and would encourage an even more participatory budget-creation process for next year.

Something needs to be done about downtown Hamilton. It's UGLY. Dirty looking - certainly no desire to go there, at all. In fact, when trying to recruit people where I work, I find it difficult to promote Hamilton.

I think for one thing city services should be physically close to each other. Its good to try to bring back life to downtown but it has to seem safe also.

I love what is happening with the waterfront. Please keep going, keep it public, free & accessible so everyone can enjoy walking around there. Those of us who live here really want & need these places so as to enjoy being a part of a community."

Transit is totally absent in any area outside of the old urban boundary. Greenville where I live has a concentration of several thousand, with no service. Waterdown has no service. The Ancaster industrial park, with a concentration of perhaps 100 businesses, has no service. I would be willing to pay a tax levy for service.

We only go downtown to go to Copps Coliseum or the Theatres for events. -- I find driving in Downtown Hamilton a pain, parking a pain, paying for parking a pain, and street construction a pain. It is much easier to go to a mall in Burlington or Lime ridge or shop in a small town like Dundas or Waterdown. City Transit is non-existent for us Flamborough types and despite our family's commitment to the environment is not an option. Good Luck attracting people to the downtown - I'd work in the harbour area/waterfront instead.

Go back to Vision 2020, and actually implement it!

We need to stop urban sprawl and revitalize the downtown!

There are many downtowns in Hamilton, support all of them, not just the one around King and James. We spend far too much money on that area; I just don't see a return on the investment. Over that last 40 years I've watched downtown turn from a vibrant area to a ghetto. A little more control over zoning might help too, the customers of a bingo hall or strip club aren't going to do much to help the other businesses in the area. Need a new city hall? Lease Jackson Square, its accessible and empty!

I find it disheartening to read that tired old zero-sum gain private vs. public approaches are the only ones in play in the minds of Hamilton city planners and politicians (e.g. as seen in the increased property taxes vs. increased fares for 'better' public transit). PLEASE consider what is already being done in other world cities, often with far fewer financial resources. PLEASE have someone read the following article on city planning in Curitiba, Brazil and how they have been able to create a first-class public transit system that 75% of the population uses (thereby keeping traffic and pollution levels low) and that \*pays\* for itself:

<http://www.cdsea.org/archives/Kcontrib/curitiba.htm>

We must stop the sprawl. When people are able to walk to work and shop we help the environment and we keep our farmland so we can buy "local". The transit routes are already there to allow people to get downtown without their cars. A win-win situation.

Get the developers to put in the cabbage they have lots, if you have to give someone 9 years of not paying taxes at the other tax payer expense you are doing something wrong.

I live in Dundas. My taxes are ridiculous \$5035/yr. I receive less services and less representation. I read about the waste and the old boys club running the City of Hamilton, it makes me sick. Priorities are not aligned with what is valued by small town residents. I left the City of Hamilton to move to Dundas to enjoy all of that is has to offer only to pick up the tab for waste and mismanagement by the City of Hamilton. Exorbitant consultant fees that the city has paid along with various debacles such as Maple Leaf Plant indecision and a wasting infrastructure have left the middle class holding the bag. We may have to leave the area as a result.

Free street side parking within a reasonable (2 hr) tag'n'tow policy will do more to encourage downtown shopping than anything else! Leave the parking lots for employee & Long-term use.

I am all in favour of "user-pay" for transit but I feel that the city needs to provide the infrastructure if we are going to get out of our cars to reduce green-house gases.

Developers need to pay more of the cost of infrastructure "modifications" to accommodate their projects but not all the costs as their projects provide benefits to us all.

Improved public safety must not be just a perception but it must be real. Again, we need to "cure the disease" causing the crime in the downtown rather than just "treat the symptoms" by trying to change our perception of the problem.

Investment in public transit should come from gas tax revenue, not one of the options you provided.

I would hope that if parking is free in the evenings and on weekends, you would actually show more revenue because you would not need all of your parking staff to be working all night long.

I believe the demise of Jackson Square was not just Lime ridge but the cost of parking downtown, every effort should be made to find a way to revitalize Jackson Square by providing free parking for at least the first hour.

'Downtown' ought to include many run-down areas, not just the core

Core revitalization should be top priority. right now it's dirty & unsafe (not just a generalization).decreased urban sprawl & increase core incentives would increase demand for high end housing/condos, increasing private investors building in the core - free parking (with time limits would increase suburban traffic in the core to things like the farmers market).better transit only increases the cores appeal (more like Toronto where people can be car-less relying on public transit which is eco-friendly).cost of better transit should be covered by its rider ship (with emphasis on affordable "passes" & higher "pay per use" fees) encouraging people to use it frequently, more waste receptacles should be installed with enforced fines for littering

The only way our downtown core is going to revitalize is by increasing the number of people who live there. Little solid effort is directed this way.

Add 5 to 10 condo developments and the rest will take care of itself.

Cleaning streets and funds to improve public perception does little. The public is not as easily fooled as our city fathers.

Parking at city hall should always be free to anyone using any of the services in that building.

Developers should be responsible for all development charges even if that translates into higher house prices. There should be no more development allowed on agricultural land. Start building more in the inner city. The downtown needs people to revitalize it. Make more housing available there and the people will come.

Encouragement of brown field development rather than using agricultural land is extremely important. We need to make the downtown a comfortable place to live which will encourage small businesses to move back in. If developers could be encouraged to renovate the downtown buildings' upper levels into "lofts"; these are currently inhabited by pigeons, we could create the type of vibrant downtown that is seen in Toronto. By all means, have as much free parking as possible.

If you provide free parking, people will come. Seattle has a free bus that runs in its downtown core, might be something to consider, even just for weekends and evenings.

Amsterdam has a bylaw that states no existing building can be torn down unless it is a dangerous structure. If the building is torn down, it can only be replaced by a building no taller than the previous building. Hamilton reminds me quite a bit, in appearance of Amsterdam, with its heritage buildings and lots of greenery.

I am moving my family from Vancouver to Hamilton in a few months and I am looking forward to it. We chose Hamilton at random and found so much potential for a vibrant city with so much culture and heritage, something Vancouver lacks.

There would definitely be an increased perception of the safety of downtown if you got rid of the strip joints and made the stores look nicer - plus doing something about the Lister Block. But well done for getting rid of Up in Smoke and the Sandbar!!

The responses options you provide us in Question #4 do not make any sense. The question provides us with two very specific options and we get to choose from a "yes", "no" list. Didn't anyone proofread this?

Light Rapid Transit from East gate to McMaster University.

Street Car to Waterfront from Downtown  
BRT connecting Downtown, Go Centre, Mohawk College, Upper James Street, and Airport

Increased Intensification.

Attract a downtown University Campus.

We need to ensure that incentives for redevelopment of downtown ensure the protection of heritage features, not just the gutting and renovating of buildings (inside and out). This has shown up in a number of buildings in and near Gore Park. We need to implement stricter and more prescriptive codes regarding heritage features. There is only one Gore Park. We don't want to end up having it look like neo-nothing, stucco facades. While I applaud people with the guts to make an investment in renovating a building, I do not support those efforts at any cost. Thanks for the survey. It's another good example by Mayor Fred of how democracy can be supported through the use of technology. Just watch the leading questions - next time. "

I live close to downtown and have to drive to the suburbs to get to a decent hardware store, office supply store etc. The south side of downtown with all those apt. building has the highest concentration of people in the city but no supermarket. My wife had to drive to Ancaster to get stockings, can't get them downtown. How about higher taxes for businesses in the suburbs and lower taxes for those located or locating downtown. This type of incentive combined with others may get things going. Moreover, the whole city needs to share the social problems. Having so many halfway homes, shelters etc. downtown has created an unsafe image of downtown.

We want to see existing tax revenue used more efficiently, not to be asked for increased taxation every time in order to do things of high priority!

In this age of world-class cities moving toward car-free downtown cores, Hamilton needs to catch up and potentially lead the way by slowing traffic through the core, improving pedestrian areas, and increasing public transit services.

Get off your ASS and make a decision on the Lister Block, (it is only ONE of the things that need to be fixed in down town Hamilton, if you want people to come on down) if someone other than the city will not pay to fix it then TEAR IT DOWN and someone will build something better that the taxpayers will not have to pay for and they will probably do it faster (if the city lets them) and more cost efficient.

This survey is an excellent idea.

If you want downtown Hamilton to grow - clean it up. Clean the streets of garbage. Get rid of the people that hang around the store fronts. Increase police foot patrol. Make it people friendly. Put the streets back to one way the way they were. The way it is now it is a bottle neck for traffic anytime I have been there. I avoid it strictly because of the traffic, the bums and it is just plain dirty and uninviting.

The Red Hill Valley Expressway-it should be a toll road until the road is paid for. But I would also like to comment (a little too late) that I think that it was disgraceful how that was handled. We really do not need another road way especially at the expense of our wildlife. We are suppose to be becoming more environmentally friendly and that whole disgrace of a road is totally contradictory to what is trying to be achieved to attract business and spending downtown you must first make it safe so that people feel at ease day or night in this area. Parking must be very affordable and available. The streets should be well lit at night, no litter; accessible to the handicapped, entertainment at most corners (i.e. Granville Island in Vancouver).A fee could be charged to those who wish to perform-a lottery to be held for prime corners for entertaining.

I'm tired of the focus on downtown. I don't go downtown because it isn't convenient. Nobody is hounding me for change at Lime ridge mall. I can also be confident my car is safe there. Until downtown is configured more conveniently...and cleansed of riffraff, any efforts to attract people to it are a complete waste to me.

We must promote our city as a place to work, live and visit. Safe downtown core is crucial to visitors.

Increased public safety in the downtown core is absolutely essential for renewal.

I support the cost recovery coming from user fees on a city-owned toll highway.

Presently there are many events that are obnoxiously loud - please consider a restriction on amplified music. Attitudes to public transit shape the demographic of downtown, presently it is predominantly used by low-income people and this has shaped the downtown culture powerfully.

Condo's are definitely a big part of booming down town for most cities. Why not us? There are plenty of beautiful architecture that would make beautiful condo's. Especially James and King street.



How about a system where businesses offer a parking stamp or voucher so customers are not penalized for shopping downtown? Try to attract customers instead of pushing to the suburbs! How about a little of a tax break for downtown businesses?

We need more parking down town and traffic free areas on King. Reroute the traffic and only allow delivery taxis and handicapped traffic on King after a certain time 7pm to encourage pedestrian traffic. We need more police downtown at night. Get rid of the tacky junk businesses and encourage out door cafes restaurants etc.

I like to shop in the inner city. I would want enough parking to attend concerts, shop and enjoy restaurants in the downtown core.

One of the main problems with Hamilton is its image - as a scruffy, rough, shoddy city, which most of my business clients from out of town comment on somewhat consistently without being prompted. Let's focus on getting the heart of the city to some kind of civilized, presentable level. It's embarrassing to drive down King St. with an out-of-town guest. From Wellington to James on King St. is an eyesore. There is too much talk about improvement and not enough action. Why are there so many boarded up buildings downtown? This is the question that needs to be answered and acted on. Not talked about over and over and over, for another 25 years. Free parking is a great feature 24/7. Why charge somebody to park in an area they'd rather avoid?  
Lower

It seems to be very difficult to find out what is going on at Hamilton Place, Theatre Aquarius, etc., unless you are already a subscriber. There needs to be more advertising of these events.

Keep the transit service good. Improve it--a rapid bus transit system would be great. And don't raise the fares!

There is a big litter problem, downtown and elsewhere. Paris, France solves this problem by having litter baskets everywhere, with plastic bags in them that are replaced very regularly. You don't see litter anywhere. (My guess is that they have a fine for littering that is enforced, an idea that I support.) Put municipal litter containers everywhere there is significant litter, empty them regularly, and hire people to go around watching for people who litter and levying fines against them on the spot (a program that should pay for itself and for the litter containers.)

Graffiti: We have a volunteer graffiti check and removal.

It would be lovely to have a vibrant downtown again. I was recently in an old city where large metal sculptures done by local artists were on 24 hour displays for several months. It was so relaxing to tour the downtown mile in which 90 attractive and curious pieces of the city's history were on display to be photographed, or to be bought if you had the cash. It provided a sense of balance between the business places and the restaurants. It gave the area an aura of class. The city should stop putting money into the Red Hill Creek Expressway and put more money into public transit and other things that are good for the environment.

Study after study show that developers never pay a fraction of the long-term service costs of a community. Either stop the sprawl or charge more. A look at the Meadowlands area must give any planner pause at what damage has been done to our city vis-à-vis design, livability, transit, pedestrian access and land use. How many more?

MAYBE HAVING FREE BUS SERVICE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA ONLY.

The city needs to build roads into new surveys and provide places to build new structures. The city needs to provide brown field land for development. Developers should not be allowed to profit from development charges.

Parking is a problem but only because of poor planning and greedy people. To charge rent for the use of space that should be provided as a courtesy if business expects me to come and check out their wares guarantees I will not come. This is the prime reason downtown cores fail, because it shows that people are not welcome and that the locals only want their money. This includes municipal ones

Under transit; I think that improving traffic flow on busy streets should be a high priority- Hamilton already has one of the best traffic flows of any city during rush hour; but I feel that the recent change of James and John to two way traffic two lanes each does not help matters. I think that at most it should be one-lane traffic in the 'wrong' direction in order to keep traffic flow higher in the 'right' direction.

It's about time that someone came up with the idea of doing an online survey. I heard about it on the radio this morning, and to be honest have never taken any initiative to give my input. It's a great idea for the younger generations (I'm 26 & a Hamilton home owner) to get a say. Thanks (maybe next time the survey could be a little shorter!)

I have noticed a bus stop almost every block - it is time to move them further apart - less stop and start time thus quicker time to final destination, i.e. Jackson square. I would take the bus if it didn't take 45 minutes to get to downtown when it takes me right now 20 minutes to drive to work!

As mentioned, be more creative. Use the people in the area to generate the ideas and plans to prove their value. Why do we assume that many of things services, ideas, projects and future plans are "cost negative"? Everything we do is an opportunity to make things better. Costs must be weighed against values generated. Plan to plan for success. Use the young minds to build those case studies. Let the education system deliver ideas and analysis. These students are our future and with guidance can plan their future for us to found... Brian

As you have noted the Downtown of any city signals the economic, social and well being of any city in the world. Hamilton is no exception. The key to the downtown is in getting people living there...which will attract businesses as they will want those peoples hard earned money. This strategy will help contain urban sprawl. The single most effective way to accelerate the already ongoing renaissance of the Downtown is incentives for investors increase that and they will come...and the rest will follow. Connect the Downtown to the waterfront and invest in light rapid transit to the waterfront from downtown only.

Expand your focus from the downtown core.

The city needs to find managers and financial controllers who can do more with fewer resources, who can run things efficiently, minimize waste. The province must come through a take over social costs that are unfairly put on the backs of taxpayers. If you continue to alienate the middle income / post secondary - educated households -- the current trend of an exodus outside to Halton etc. will continue.

The idea of the toll road for the Red hill Valley is an old but brilliant idea. Live long enough and what was an old idea is new

We seldom travel downtown unless necessary because parking is difficult and too expensive. Attractions/shopping areas - or Jackson Square has no shops of interest. Downtown area is unappealing, dirty; atmosphere does not afford a feeling of safety/security.

"Public transit is important but trains in out of the city and more locations rather than hunter street, and trains that run on a more regular basis is the key to reduce car travel and help the environment.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT should really take a page from the English development of town cores focusing on three pronged anchors featuring an art gallery, museum and heritage centre/attraction with cheap and efficient rapid transit. This plan also included preserving and enhancing the tourist services and pedestrians.

We need manufacturing and professional jobs in the core. Retail and service industry will follow, if the workers are there, daily. Festivals, movies and special events are nice to have but we need ongoing, permanent, productive activity that is constant and reliable - making money for the city every day. We are in the midst of the most populated region in Canada; we have air, rail, highway and steamship connections to the entire world. We need Hyundai factory, not more donut shops. We need to produce things people need, like food, medication, clothing, tools, electronics, furniture, etc, before we build more stores to sell these products. Give land away; reduce taxes for manufacturing companies, based on the number of people they employ.

Could there be separate rates for users of the Red Hill expressway? As in low rates for Hamilton residents and higher rates for others?

Can we finally tear down the Lister Building, Stop trying to save it. It is an eyesore to the city. If the city does not do something quickly and a lawsuit happens from a piece of the building falling on public, the city taxpayers will be stuck with the bill (legal fees) again.

In a 2-3 hour TV program about Hamilton I was amazed at the foresight of city planners around water works, sewers, parks, hydro and streets. We need to get a 5, 10, 15 and 20 year plan in place and not just keep putting out fires as infrastructure breaks down.

As a retailer whose business is on James street south, I feel it is essential to get more bodies into the downtown core. I used to work at the CIBC at King and James, and every lunch hour we went shopping in Jackson Square. That was prior to Lime ridge Mall. We need to give free parking all the time, allow street side parking and give businesses incentives to locate in the core. If there are lively, thriving businesses, the perception of danger will disappear. Creating pedestrian malls and car free areas would be great. In Denver, where I was last weekend they have a care free area with a City Sponsored free natural gas bus that stops on every corner. People could just jump on and off and shop a will no matter, the weather. Check other cities I agree on a redistribution of parking fees by increasing the meters and decreasing the longer term parking. This will attract more shoppers and dinners to downtown...

Hamilton seems poised to really become a turn around city - lets hope we have the will and consensus to move forward to continue to build Hamilton towards a true renaissance period - this has been a long time coming and we now have all the key components to make it work. It will rely on the efforts of our leaders to demonstrate true forward thinking leadership that is future orientated and not small town thinkers.

The red hill expressway is an example of shame. It was pushed through despite clear environmental arguments against it. This sort of thing must stop. It is short-sighted to build something which was widely opposed, had negative environmental impact, and promotes use of private fossil-fuelled vehicles.

What does, ""Improved perception of public safety"" mean? More police so people think they are safer? I don't understand. If it means more police and cameras then I say NO!

We should focus on transportation issues. Less cars, more bike lanes and buses. We can't live in a city we can't breathe in.

Get out of the greenbelt. Yes agricultural land is being developed, only now not in Hamilton but west of us. If the whole province is not in the Greenbelt the city will continue to stagnate as industry and housing moves away to areas easier to develop. At present the city is on its way to becoming a dinosaur. Your high taxes will also drive industry and housing away. Your rural areas can't continue to support a city which is not progressive

The vacancy rates downtown are shameful. Limit commercial development in suburbs and make the core more users friendly and attractive. If there are interesting things for people to do in the core they will go there...it's that simple. We need to bring people back to the core. The businesses will follow. The top of Jackson Square should have festivals, buskers, music, etc. throughout the spring, summer, and fall and all the fountains should be on. The standard Life Building is beautiful inside-put in a small casino. Improve James St N. and use it as the gateway to the waterfront- have regular trolley or bus service-need to get the crack dealers off James St. N. first and FREE PARKING EVERYWHERE. (you can charge again down the road)

I support the payment of all infrastructure costs by developers. With respect to the loss of valuable agricultural land, for almost 30 years I have been very concerned by this trend. While downtown rots, we squander our future ability to produce food for a rapidly increasing population. It is folly of the first order and a quick look at collapsed societies shows that this trend is the number one reason that a society becomes unsustainable. If it were up to me, there would be absolutely no way to build housing lots on arable land. If this means giving farmers incentives, I'd be in favour of that. Good luck and thank you for the opportunity to comment."

Be brave - make a portion of downtown car free with fixed transit access (think Calgary). Encourage walking in downtown so you don't have to compete with traffic, with better air quality. Provide a police community services office visible in the core. Large (monitored) washroom facilities do wonder to make time spent in downtowns more livable (think Europe).

If you focus on quality of life issues for Hamilton, marketing is easier and business investment will follow - but get this in the right order first.

What happened to sustainable growth? Developers should pay for the infrastructure (they benefit from the increased margin), and taxpayers should pay for the on-going maintenance (and future re-investment).

The downtown needs more arts and culture. This attracts residents, and business follows. Property owners are not maintaining their buildings - what more incentives do they need?"

The city should develop an incentive plan aimed at revitalizing (not demolishing) vacant buildings down town. Absentee landlords and landholders with tax arrears should be penalized more severely.

I can tell from your questions that you already know what the progressive answers are. Please show leadership, ignore the bellyachers, raise our taxes, do what you must, but be responsible with our money and spend it on ways to transform our city into a green, clean, downtown friendly, artistic, entrepreneurial place to live and work for generations to come.

Please encourage the removal of ALL portable signs along our streets. The flashing neon and all those black portable signs are a distraction and an eyesore. Imagine how beautiful the landscape could be without such a mixed view!

Parking is a major issue when trying to attract people downtown. How about free parking everywhere during the summer months after noon during the week & weekends. Also, if there is a special event anywhere in the city, let's ease up on handing out parking tickets. We should focus our ticketing on incidents as parking in front of fire hydrants or driveways.

Yes I think all vehicles should be charged a toll, but my fear would be that that would bring far too much traffic back into the City where we are trying to divert it. It seems to me that the out-of-towners should be paying to use it, but how do you monitor something like that. Maybe it needs to be a combination of sorts.

The city needs to have a unified plan for King St. downtown including storefronts, signage etc. It looked really great when they made a movie and covered storefronts to appear unified and elegant. Can the city at least put up false fronts on eyesores so that King St. is more people-friendly?

The issue of building on agricultural land has been around for years and nothing has changed. We still seem to be debating the same thing. Of course we should not build on agricultural land. If we want to rely on produce from Mexico and California, keep building. We should be able to support our produce, dairy and other needs locally without relying on things being flown in. I have subscribed to a group that purchases local produce as much as possible. This should be encouraged as much as possible.

Buildings like the old Phantom Hosiery building on Dundurn across from the beer store should either be torn down or developed. The grounds are always littered with garbage with broken windows etc. Either make the owner develop it or scrap it!"

For our downtown to become once again vibrant, we need people to begin to live there. We need to get condos and even student housing to go in there which will attract retail to support it, and will get a decent street scene. Free parking helps, but having people live there, and walking around there will attract services. Do something about the tax structure to allow this to happen.

I would like to see Hamilton become a city of educational institutions, research institutions, museums, cultural centres, small playhouses and cafes and honored heritage sites. A place that people from everywhere come to study and visit. Our native heritage, multiethnic mix, labour history, industrial history, first rate educational institutions all are excellent raw materials for this to happen.

We need to make the city a clean and healthy place (which it is not) and get rid of homelessness and poverty. These are all compatible goals if we use what we have properly. This means not letting the present group of powerful developers continue to run the city for their own benefit.

I think that the two most important things that could be done to improve our downtown are:

- Bringing either a McMaster or Mohawk campus into the core.
- Attracting larger businesses into the area, like all the different stores which are now in the meadowlands centre.

Downtown is disgusting and I rarely go down there if I don't absolutely have to. We need better transit to move people/ parking is another issue too expensive - "suitable businesses should get as many incentives as possible to open up and clean up downtown. Gangs of teenagers need to be moved along and not allowed to just hang out. Art galleries specialty shops, restaurants cafes etc need to be encouraged like a European atmosphere Make it some where people want to be or need to be / All of Downtown need to be more like west dale or Hess Village.

Return John and James streets to one-way. The new changes have created grid-lock I now avoid the downtown like the plague.

Reexamine 2007 development proposals (as outlined in the Spectator recently)

For example, it seems foolish to reconstruct Stone Church Rd E between Upper James and Wellington - a costly, complex project - when portions of Stone Church Rd west of Upper James do not even have sewers and are in far worse condition.

There is a need for the type of housing that attracts the recently retired or career minded citizens downtown i.e. townhouses with small plots of land or brownstone type developments as well as the condominiums that already exist at this time.

There is so much space downtown - all the green space in Binbrook etc is being paved over instead of developing brown space.