



Memorandum

**Corporate Services Department
City Clerk Services**

Date: May 26, 2020

File: A-2150

To: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Development Services Department,
Corporate Services Department, Community Services Department

From: Jennifer Allan
Administrative Assistant

Re: Direction of Oshawa City Council
May 25, 2020

Attached is a listing of Council's direction on matters discussed at the meeting held May 25, 2020. Please review the listing and take the appropriate action to address Council's decision for those matters within your respective area of responsibility.

Jennifer Allan
City Clerk Services

Additional Motions/Items

Amendments to the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program

Recommendation

Whereas businesses throughout the City of Oshawa are suffering catastrophic resulting in losses of countless jobs and the inability of business operators to continue to pay expenses during the emergency including rent for their business premises; and,

Whereas Restaurants Canada, the trade organization for the foodservice industry, reports that 10% of Canadian restaurants were permanently closed by the end of March and as many as 50% of those remaining are at risk of failure, in no small measure, due to the lack of ability to pay rent or secure affordable accommodation from their landlords; and,

Whereas the loss of many small and medium businesses will hurt and delay Canada's full economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

Whereas the City of Oshawa is encouraged by the cooperation between the Federal and Provincial government to develop the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (the Program); and,

Whereas both the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business have called for a moratorium on commercial evictions; and,

Whereas Section 18 (i) of the Commercial Tenancies Act, provides that a commercial landlord may repossess leased premises 15 days after the tenant fails to both (i) pay rent and (ii) remedy the failure in the interim and many businesses are either being evicted or are at risk of imminent eviction causing uncertainty for operators and their employees; and,

Whereas the supports that have been provided to businesses to date focus on keeping staff employed are not sufficient in most cases to keep expenses paid, especially rent, which is often the most significant single operating expense of a business; and,

Whereas the Program requires that commercial landlords apply for the Program and tenants are not eligible to apply; and,

Whereas it would be more efficient to permit tenants to apply for the program to allow for funding to be provided directly to tenants to assist businesses in meeting their obligations including their rent obligations to their landlord; and,

Whereas on May 22, 2020, the Mayor's Task Force on Economy Recovery discussed the Program and its ability to help advance economic recovery in the Region;

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That the City of Oshawa requests the Federal and Provincial governments to revise the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program to permit funding to be provided directly to businesses and tenants and launch the program immediately; and,
2. That the City of Oshawa requests the Province of Ontario to freeze commercial evictions within the Province of Ontario for a period up to and including thirty days following the conclusion of the order declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act; and,
3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, the Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Federal Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Provincial Minister of Finance, Durham Region area Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament as well as all Durham local municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Oshawa Business Improvement Area and the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses