

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

February 26, 2007.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of projects in the Hamilton community of Richmond, most recently in the recommendation of additional levels of funding for:

- a Weekly Library Book Delivery Service (\$97K),
- for the first time, a full-time (vs. current 60%) Facilities Coordinator at the Hamilton Community Centre (\$25K), in addition to the single daytime staff position funded by the City, and
- a Community Police presence (\$25K), equivalent to 1/5th of a police officer, at the shopping centre in Queensborough

which are before you for approval tonight.

Up to the late 1980's Hamilton had a relatively stable population of about 900. Since then Hamilton has grown rapidly, now has a population of about 5,000, continues to grow rapidly, and may have one of the highest concentration of young families in Richmond. Our elementary school enrolments are still projected to rise, against the trend of many Richmond neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, Hamilton also has one of the lowest levels of community facilities and services for families in Richmond.

In September, 2003, we renewed our activities to secure a library branch in Hamilton. After Child Care, the community's greatest expressed need has been for a library branch. We ask you, our Council, to share our approach that family literacy is an essential community service that should be accessible to all. We believe that a library will support family literacy, student and adult learning, and provide a public gathering space for our community. The nearest library branch, at Cambie, is 10 Km away by highway. The main branch is 16 Km away.

We have received much encouragement from the mayor, councillors, staff and the library board for the project. The approval of a weekly library delivery service demonstrates your responsiveness to our community's expressed needs. However, we are still waiting for news of where Hamilton sits on the list of City projects, among major projects for City Centre, the Casino area north of Bridgeport, and the Olympic Oval.

As you evaluate program budgets for the coming years, we ask you to set staff priorities, consider re-allocating existing funds, or, if necessary, approving additional funds, for facilities and services in Hamilton, with highest priority to establishing a library branch, in currently available rental space, or other options.

Thank you. Wolf Strecko, Pauline Lewzey,

of the Hamilton Community Association, and Hamilton residents present