

ADDRESSING THE REVOLVING DOOR OF JUSTICE - ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SURETIES AND SWIFT JUSTICE

WHEREAS the City of Brantford has experienced a substantial increase in criminal activity leaving residents fearful for their personal safety and losing confidence in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS the City of Brantford strives to create vibrant, safe, livable neighbourhoods in its community; and

WHEREAS concerns continue to be raised by businesses, the post-secondary institutions in the downtown area and their student bodies, neighbourhood associations, citizens and others; and

WHEREAS bringing matters related to criminal charges more expeditiously through the court system will create a greater deterrence to such behaviour, and therefore improve the safety and security of citizens in this community; and

WHEREAS each year a significant sum of surety money is forfeited further to breaches of the conditions of judicial interim release orders (“bail”); however, the necessary steps are not taken to collect this forfeited money, thus leaving a substantial financial resource unavailable;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That Kevin Davis, Mayor of the City of Brantford, on behalf of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brantford, correspond with the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, President of the Treasury Board and the Honourable Doug Downie, Attorney General of Ontario, insisting that steps be taken immediately by the government to:
 - a. provide additional judicial resources dedicated to Brantford to allow for matters to move as expeditiously through the court system as possible; and
 - b. provide such additional space and/or technological resources for the local court to ensure there is adequate space and technological resources to most efficiently address the significant local caseload and consequently decrease the time a matter takes to be fully resolved; and
 - c. dedicate the required resources to collect the forfeited surety monies and reinvest that money back into the provincial judicial system; and
2. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) and the list of other Ontario Municipalities with a request that those municipalities pass similar resolutions; and
3. THAT the City Solicitor BE DIRECTED to send the letter referenced in paragraph 1 above to Brant County and the Six Nations of the Grand River to determine if they are willing to be signatories to the letter.