




# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	July 3, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Bill Simone Hall located 133 Wilson Street, Hamilton (CFEM2406)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Indra Maharjan Director, Corporate Facilities and Energy Management Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This Communication Update provides members of Council with information regarding a recent Structural Risk Assessment of Bill Simone Hall at 133 Wilson Street, along with mitigating measures.

On Friday, June 28, 2024, staff received a preliminary report from a structural engineer identifying that the exterior wall at Bill Simone Hall needed immediate attention due to a health and safety risk. The majority of the façade is clad with non-load-bearing masonry, some of which is in poor condition. The recommendation is to remove the existing masonry wall along the Northwest corner to mitigate the risk of falling. Once removed, the building will be temporarily sealed until new masonry cladding can be installed.

Due to this risk, fencing was erected the same day, and work is underway to address the exterior masonry demolition, which is expected to be completed by the end of this week. The building is being closed for the foreseeable future out of an abundance of caution while immediate mitigation measures and work are underway. The interior structure of the building does not pose any risk.

A detailed plan for the required structural repairs, including scope, phasing, and costing is under development, as well as a plan to reopen the facility as soon as possible once the identified risk has been addressed. Given the age of the facility and consistent with best practices, staff have regularly commissioned condition assessments of the building, which have noted the need for further structural review.

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

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

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The last building condition assessment for this facility was completed in 2022 and recommended an action plan for the next five years. Further detailed structural review commenced in Q2 of this year, leading to the identification of the need for an immediate response, which was taken on Friday, June 28. The report is currently in draft form and will be completed in the next few months with detailed information on cost estimates and work needed on this facility.

Bill Simone Hall is valued for community programming use. Wesley Urban Ministries (WUM) has an agreement to operate both Simone Hall and the Beasley Community Centre, which is on the same footprint. Recreation Staff manages the agreement with WUM and has been in contact with them to discuss acute impacts to programming and contingencies for programming should there be an extended delay in accessing the site. In such circumstances, Recreation staff will continue to work with WUM to arrange alternate accommodations appropriate to the needs of the community. As the facility operator, WUM will provide the appropriate communication to their patrons.

We appreciate that the safety concerns present significant challenges and inconveniences to the members of the public who frequent the site. The City is committed to working with all programs offered out of Bill Simone Hall to avoid impacts where possible and help them with rescheduling where required.

Staff will provide further updates to Council as the work progresses. We appreciate the efforts of City Staff as they respond to protect public safety and will work to minimize operating impacts by implementing temporary solutions and permanent fixes.

If you require any further information on this matter, please contact Robyn Ellis, Manager of Strategic Planning Capital & Compliance, at [Robyn.Ellis@hamilton.ca](mailto:Robyn.Ellis@hamilton.ca) or Extension 2616.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A