

**KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL  
REPORT CARD  
Q4 2023**

For 182 years, The Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce has been facilitating connections and collective action to strengthen our business community.

This report card is part of our continued advocacy efforts to ensure that City Council remains transparent and accountable to our vibrant business community.

## How to read our report card

Our team has reviewed motions voted on in public at full City Council meetings over the 4th quarter of 2023, and identified the motions that are most relevant to the Kingston business community and how council voted on those motions. This includes October through December 2023.

## Ratings Explained



**Red:** Council is seen to be offside with the priorities of the business community. Issues important to the business community and workers are not being considered or are being voted down.



**Yellow:** Council is somewhat aligned on business issues. There is occasional consideration given to business concerns and vote outcomes sometimes reflect the needs of local employers and workers.



**Green:** Council is generally aligned with the priorities of the business community. Issues important to the business community are regularly being discussed and considered, and votes on business issues typically pass.

Individual councillors' voting records are included at the end of the report for your information. In recording council votes, a green indicates a vote in favour, red indicates a vote to reject, yellow indicates abstention, and black indicates absence. Note there are 13 members of city council.

# 4TH QUARTER VOTING ON BUSINESS ISSUES

## November 7th Meeting

### Wind down of Sleeping Cabins Pilot Project

**About:** Council voted to wind down the sleeping cabins pilot project which was initiated as a short term solution during COVID. The program was to provide a transitional opportunity to have the residents move on to more permanent housing. This was not designed as a permanent solution and has not delivered the intended result to scale. It is imperative to work more broadly to find stronger and more permanent solutions. The wind down of the project, will take 6 months as the City works to find appropriate alternatives for the minimal residents currently in the program.

**Chamber Desired Outcome:** In Favour

**Council Result:** 10 in favour, 2 opposed, 1 absent

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## November 21st Meeting

### Community Standards By-Law

**About:** City council approved the proposed community standards by-law which is established to ensure increased responsiveness to difficult situations being experienced by business owners, employees, patrons as well as visitors and tourists. City Staff confirmed that the the by-law officers will be receiving increased professional training to better assess the circumstances and then engage the appropriate layers of support necessary to provide the kind of care and/or attention required. This by-law will be reviewed in 1 year allowing for corrections or changes to be made if necessary.

**Chamber Desired Outcome:** In Favour

**Council Result:** 10 in favour, 2 opposed, 1 absent

# 4TH QUARTER VOTING ON BUSINESS ISSUES

## Housing Accelerator Fund – Recommendations Adopted

**About:** City staff had applied to the federal government’s housing accelerator fund for \$65M to support market and affordable housing initiatives over the next 3 years. CMHC, who manages the fund, requested the City of Kingston, bolster its current application to adopt planning and policy changes similar to other municipalities such as London, Milton, Mississauga and Brampton. A total of 8 recommendations were tabled as a motion and successfully adopted by Council. We are pleased to see the City embracing strategies to meet our housing needs without further burdening businesses and individuals already struggling with the cost of living in Kingston.

**Chamber Desired Outcome:** In favour

**Council Result:** 12 in favour, 1 absent

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## December 5th Meeting

### Population, housing and employment – Growth Forecast

**About:** City staff contracted Watson & Associates, who provided their growth forecast findings of low, medium and high growth strategies. They recommended adopting a medium growth strategy while completing the official plan. We advocated for the City to consider a high growth strategy although and brought forward a delegation to emphasize that planning for more would ensure an aggressive focus to meet the ever expanding demands as was echoed by The Home Builders Assoc. Council voted for medium growth so we will remain steadfast with continued engagement with the City as we monitor upcoming developments with the City’s official plan.

**Chamber Desired Outcome:** In Favour

**Council Result:** 13 in favour (Unanimous)

# Q4 2023 COUNCIL SCORE

3

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We will summarize our fourth quarter assessment as 'green'.

We were pleased to see a majority on council deliver an expressed interest with moving the City forward in key areas of interest such as the Community Standards by-law and adopting the recommended amendments for the Housing Accelerator funds application. Working to ensure a safer environment as a whole both within the downtown core and the City at large, is critical and then continuing the work to ensure we have increased resources to meet our housing demands, goes without saying. As the federal government considers whether to award Housing Accelerator funds to communities like Kingston, they will be looking for municipalities committed to building and who are taking the housing shortage seriously.



One area of caution is with the City's decision to adopt a "Medium Growth" Strategy rather than a "High Growth" Strategy while working through its' Official Plan up to 2051. Your Chamber of Commerce, voiced this concern as a delegation inclusive of our CEO Karen Cross and Chamber member Jason Skilnik partner at MNP, where they highlighted the need and requirement to adopt a "High Growth" strategy. Based on all of the data presented, the difference between the two, is nominal at best.

## ABOUT YOUR CHAMBER



The Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce is the oldest chamber in Ontario and boasts a membership base of 650 businesses representing over 18,000 employees.

We are the trusted advocate and tireless champion for local business. We are committed to stimulating the growth and prosperity of the local business community. Our mission is to influence public policy, be the catalyst for connectivity, and provide unique competitive advantages for our members.

We invite prospective new member organizations to visit [kingstonchamber.ca](http://kingstonchamber.ca).

# 4TH QUARTER VOTING RECORDS ON BUSINESS ISSUES

# GROWTH FORECAST STRATEGY TO 2051

# COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW



**MAYOR BRYAN PATERSON**  
Mayor



**COUNCILLOR GARY OOSTERHOF**  
District 1, Countryside



**COUNCILLOR PAUL CHAVES**  
District 2, Loyalist-Cataraqui



**COUNCILLOR LISA OSANIC**  
District 3, Collins-Bayridge



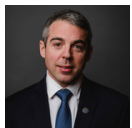
**COUNCILLOR WENDY STEPHEN**  
District 4, Lakeside



**COUNCILLOR DON AMOS**  
District 5, Portsmouth



**COUNCILLOR JIMMY HASSAN**  
District 6, Trillium



**COUNCILLOR BRANDON TOZZO**  
District 7, Kingscourt-Rideau



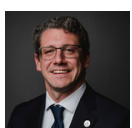
**COUNCILLOR JEFF MCLAREN**  
District 8, Meadowbrook  
-Strathcona



**COUNCILLOR VINCENT CINANNI**  
District 9, Williamsville



**COUNCILLOR CONNY GLENN**  
District 10, Sydenham



**COUNCILLOR GREGORY RIDGE**  
District 11, King's Town



**COUNCILLOR RYAN BOEHME**  
District 12, Pittsburgh



**ABSENT**



