



# SPEAKING NOTES

**COVID-19 media briefing notes – Chair Karen Redman**

**January 22, 2021**

## **Welcome**

Welcome everyone to this week's community update. It's good to be back with all of you. As you're probably aware, I've been isolating and recovering after testing positive for COVID-19.

I want to sincerely thank everyone from across the region and beyond who sent well wishes while I was recovering.

This morning, we will get our weekly update from medical officer of health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang and Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton, and today we welcome **Tony LaMantia, President and CEO of the Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation.**

## **2021 Plan and budget**

Before we hear from our guests, I'd like to remind everyone Council unanimously approved our 2021 Regional budget this week. This was a thoughtful, deliberate and purpose-built plan that aims to bring better quality of life to all 630,000 residents now and into the future.

This budget demonstrates Council is committed to investing in our diverse and growing community, while helping ensure the community is well-positioned to emerge from the pandemic.

We provide critical services to every resident, every day. Things like transit, paramedic services, waste management, safe drinking water and major construction projects. These services will continue, all while responding to



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the urgent and growing need for affordable housing, and the need to build an inclusive region through investment in our marginalized communities.

Our plan and budget recognizes the need to support our local economy, and that's why we're providing targeted supports to local businesses. I look forward to hearing more from Tony this morning on supports for local businesses that are available.

I must also recognize the collaborative effort of Council and staff to bring this transformational plan forward that will lift our community beyond COVID-19.

We will continue to prioritize this vision for Waterloo Region, which has been created with significant input from residents.

### **Enforcement update**

Today's enforcement update is from January 14 to the 20 and includes actions from our local enforcement partners.

There have been 12 enforcement actions since the last media update:

- 9 for the reporting period Jan 14 to Jan 20
- 3 charges were from the previous reporting period but were not reported at the time of the update.
  
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket for failure to wear a face covering. Total payable \$240.00.
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 2 tickets at the same private residence – tenants were hosting a gathering, both tenants were charged. Total payable is \$880 for each ticket.
- City of Waterloo by-law issued 3 tickets at three separate private residences for gatherings. Total payable is \$880.00 for each ticket.



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- City of Cambridge by-law issued 5 tickets
  - 4 were issued at four separate private residences for gatherings. Total payable is \$880.00 for each ticket
  - 1 was issued at a park for 4 individuals in a vehicle watching sports on a cell phone. Three of them left the area, the driver was charged under the EMPCA Stay at Home Order. Total payable is \$880.00.
- North Dumfries By-Law issued 1 ticket for violation of the EMCPA Stay at Home Order. Individual was having a party at an AirBnB. Total payable is \$880.00.

## **Dr. Wang's COVID-19 public health update**

## **Deputy Hilton's Vaccine Task Force update**

## **Special Guest Tony LaMantia**

I'd like to introduce Tony LaMantia, President and CEO of the Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation to discuss local businesses support and economic recovery.