



City of Belleville

Council

Review

of

Police and Fire Area Rating

March 27, 2017



Area Rating History

Area Rated Services were implemented in 1998 as part of the amalgamation between the City of Belleville and Township of Thurlow for the following services:

- Fire Urban
- Fire Rural
- Urban Police
- Rural Police
- Transit
- Streetlights
- Debt (Area Rated Debt that ended in 2011)

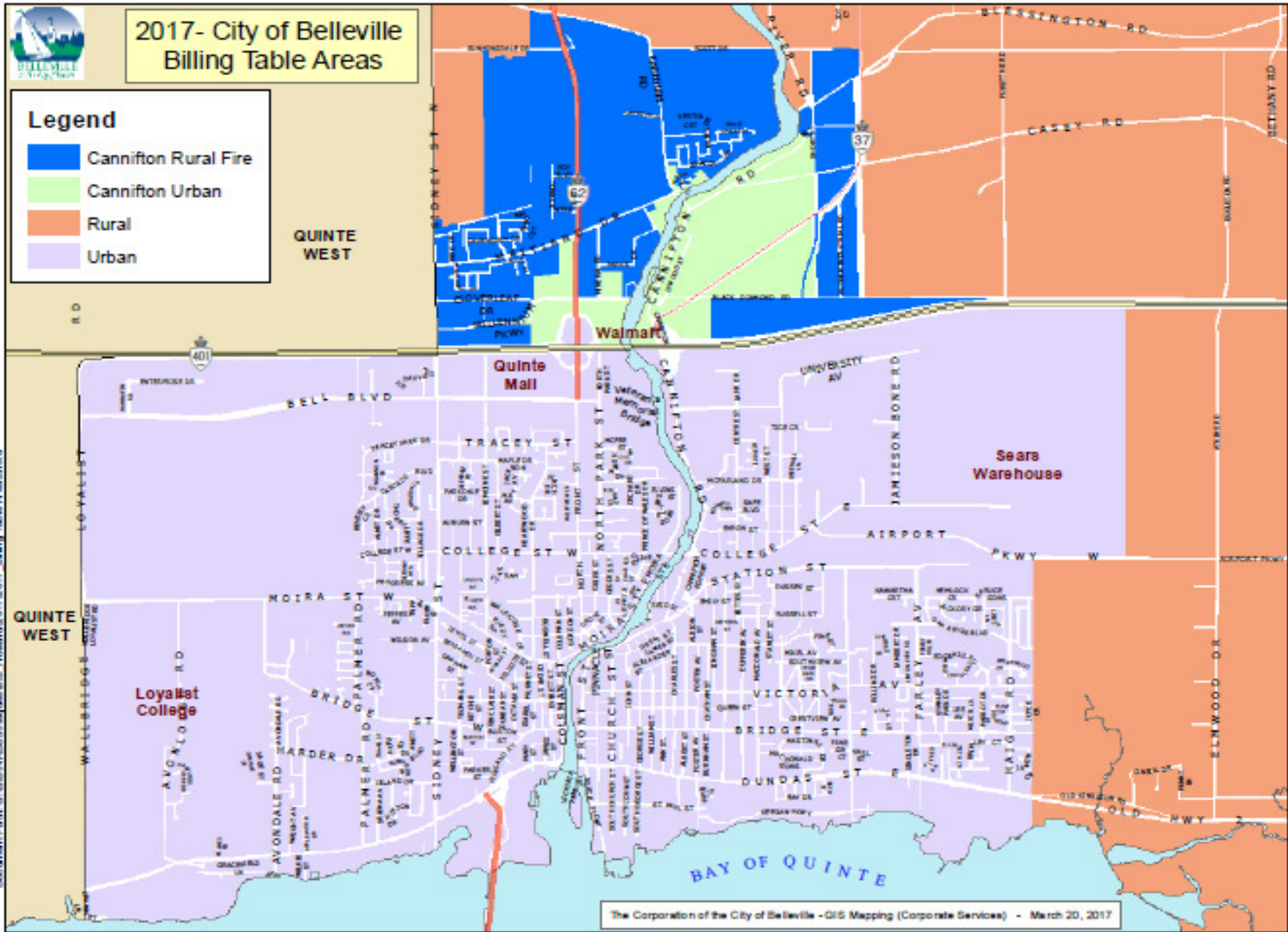


2017- City of Belleville Billing Table Areas

Legend

- Cannifton Rural Fire
- Cannifton Urban
- Rural
- Urban

QUINTE WEST



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Document Path: G:\GIS\MAPPING\Requests\2017\2017_Billing Table Areas.mxd

2016 Fire & Police Area Rated Services By Billing Tables

Area Rated Services	Belleville Urban	Cannifton Urban Fire	Cannifton Rural Fire	Rural
Billing Table	1	2	3	4
Fire Urban Debt	Yes	Yes		
Fire Rural Debt			Yes	Yes
Fire Urban	Yes	Yes		
Fire Rural			Yes	Yes
Police Urban (96%)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Police Rural (4%)				Yes



City of Belleville

Fire Area Rated Services



The Cost of Residential Fire Services in 2016

Urban Fire Services: (Tax Billing Tables 1 -2)

\$371.38 on a \$200,000 House Assessment

Fire Rural Services: (Tax Billing Tables 3-4)

\$143.62 on a \$200,000 House Assessment



The Cost of Residential Fire Debt in 2016

Urban Fire Debt: (Tax Billing Tables 1 -2)

\$19.21 on a \$200,000 House Assessment

Fire Rural Debt: (Tax Billing Tables 3-4)

\$13.29 on a \$200,000 House Assessment



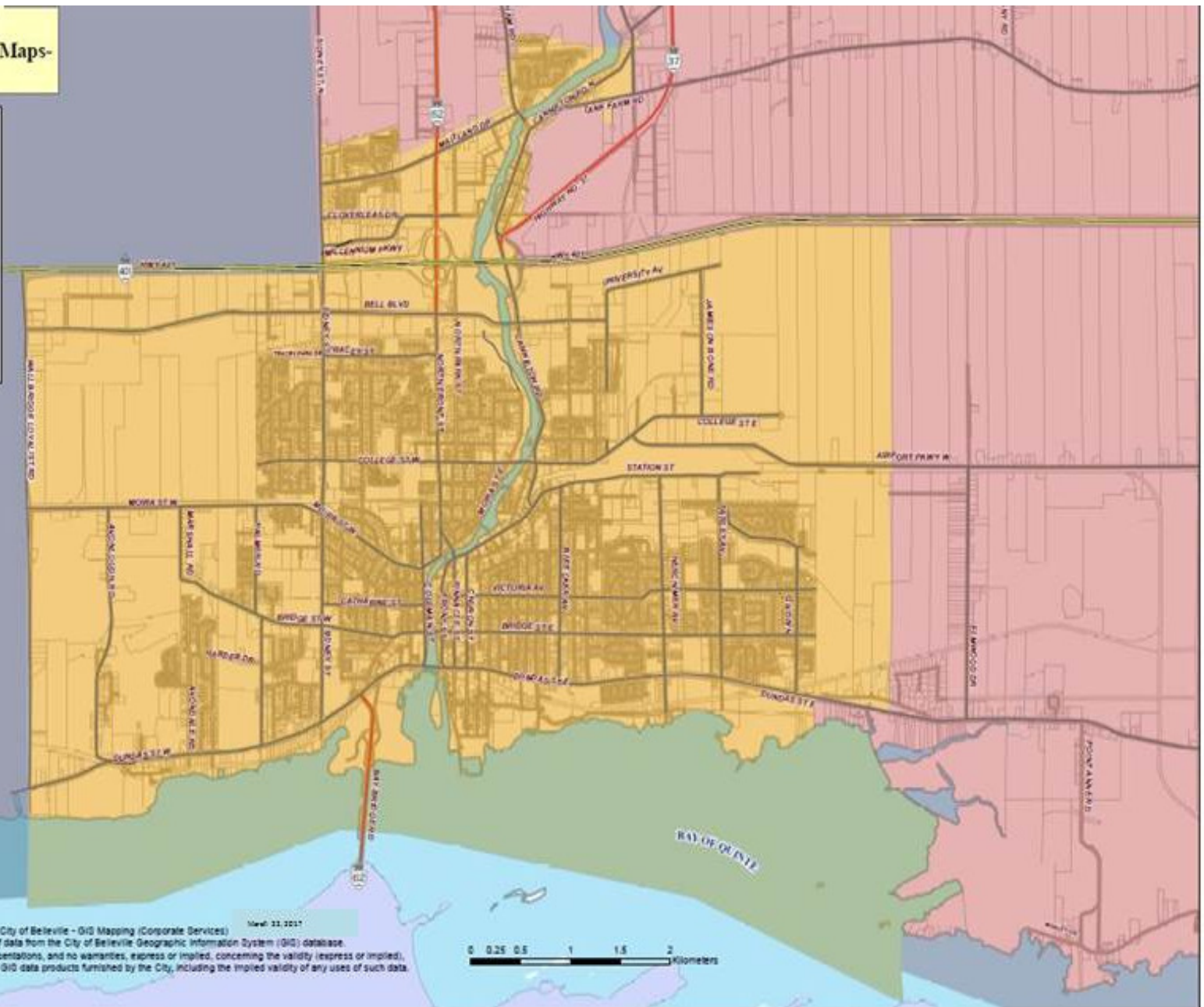
Fire Area Rating Options

1. Status Quo
2. Introduce an Urban and Rural Area Rated system based on a direct or indirect benefit of the service that is currently available or will be available in the future using the **revised approved Fire Master Plan** to realign existing boundaries.
3. Phase-in Option 3 over 4 or 7 years

March 2017
Urban/Rural Boundary Fire Maps-

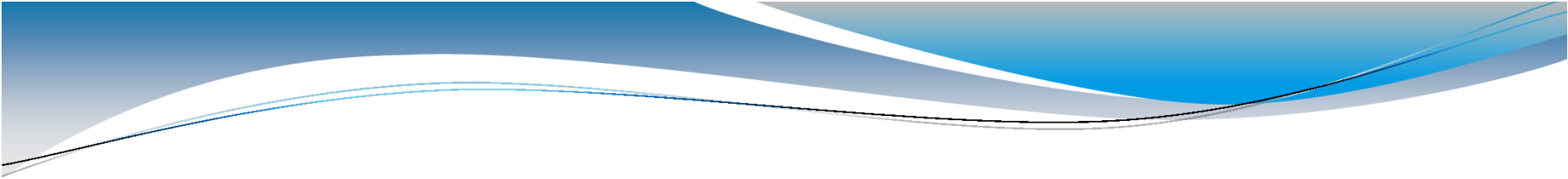
**Current
Response Area**

- Urban
- Rural
- Prince Edward
- Quinte West



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The map is created from a subset of data from the City of Belleville Geographic Information System (GIS) database.
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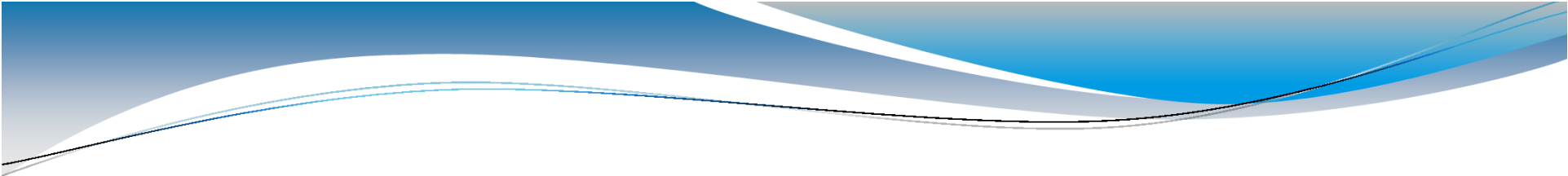
Impacts/Benefits of Fire Area Rating Options



Option # 1

Status Quo

- No change to current area rated service boundaries
- Does not recognize the direct or indirect benefit of the services that are currently available or will be available in the future
- Does not take into account that fire personnel and equipment is commonly deployed to all areas of the City



Option #1

Status Quo (cont'd)

- Does not reflect that within the former municipal boundaries some areas are now fully serviced by Career fire fighters that previously were Volunteer fire fighters
- Does not address the need for a consistent implementation plan for when changes occur in service levels. Quinte West Annex Area (435 properties) moved directly into an Urban Service Area from paying Rural Service Area rates in Quinte West with no phase-in).



Option #2

Urban/Rural Area Rated Services

- Would realign the Urban/Rural Area rated service boundaries based on a direct or indirect benefit of the service that is currently available or will be available in the future using the approved revised Fire Master Plan to realign existing boundaries
- Moves the Urban Rated Service Area east to include the City's newly expanded industrial park area.
- Creates a level playing field for taxes in the industrial and commercial property classes that receive the same area rated services



Option # 3 Phase-in Urban & Rural Area Rating

- Allows a gradual transition to any tax impacts resulting from realignment of the Urban/Rural Area rated service boundaries



City of Belleville Police Area Rated Services



Police Area Rating Options

1. Status Quo
2. Full elimination of Area Rating for the Police Service budget would become part of the Core (General Tax Levy)
3. Phase-in Option 2 over 4 or 7 years



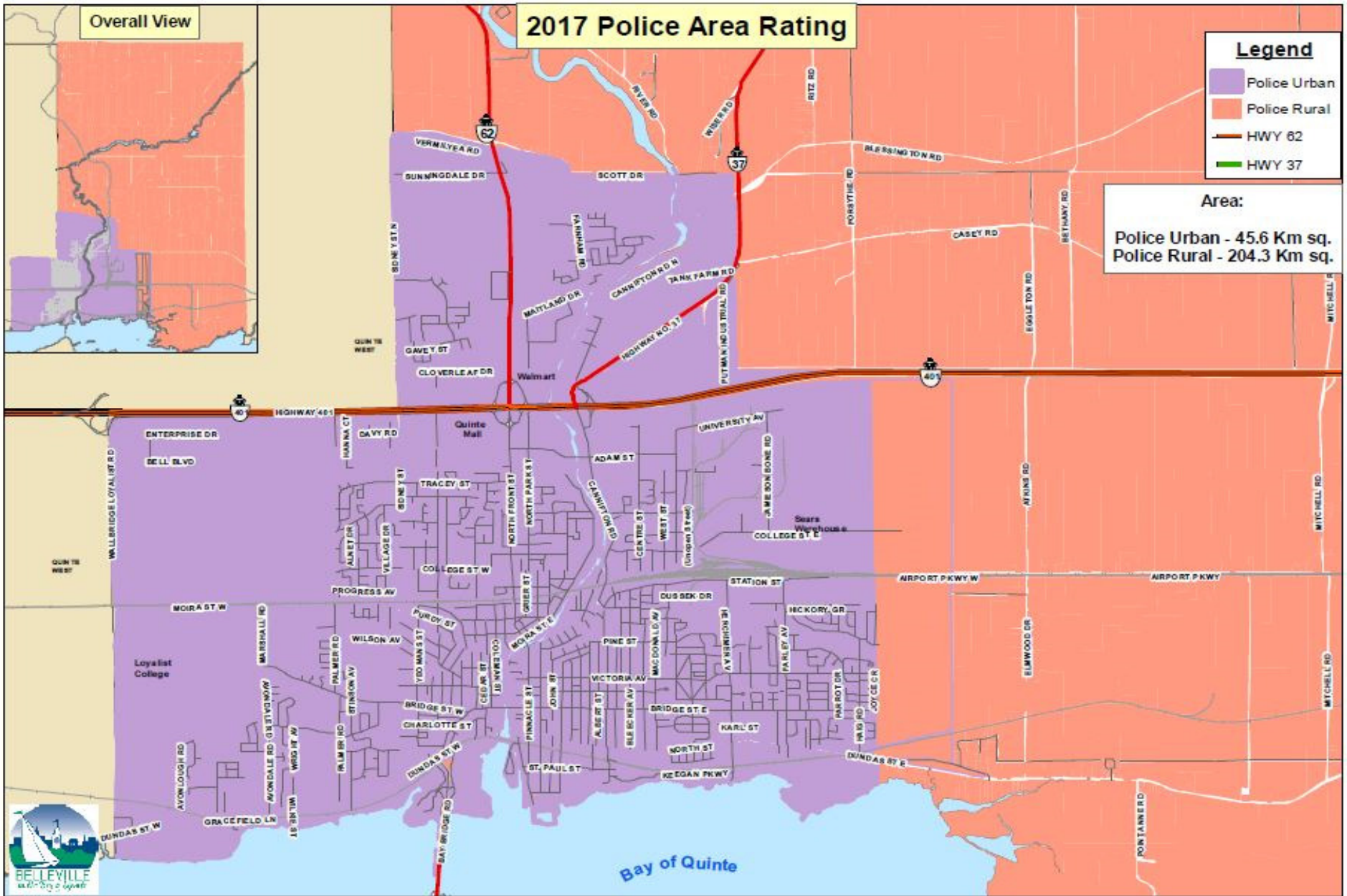
The Cost of Residential Police Services in 2016

Police Urban :Pays for 96% of the total Police
Budget (Tax Billing Tables 1 to 3) or
\$547.63 on a \$200,000 House Assessment

Police Rural :Pays for 4% of the total Police
Budget (Tax Billing Table 4) or
\$182.98 on a \$200,000 House Assessment

Police Services Core Rated Comparison on a House Assessment of \$200,000

Billing Table	Total Taxes Billed in 2016	Total Taxes Billed if 2016 Police Services were Core Rated	Total Taxes in 2016 Change
1	\$2,786.81	\$2,745.90	-\$40.91
2	\$2,679.04	\$2,638.13	-\$40.91
3	\$2,445.34	\$2,404.43	-\$40.91
4	\$2,057.87	\$2,384.61	\$326.74



2017 Police Area Rating

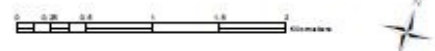
Legend

- Police Urban
- Police Rural
- HWY 62
- HWY 37

Area:
 Police Urban - 45.6 Km sq.
 Police Rural - 204.3 Km sq.



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Impacts/Benefits of Police Services Area Rated Options



Option #1 Status Quo

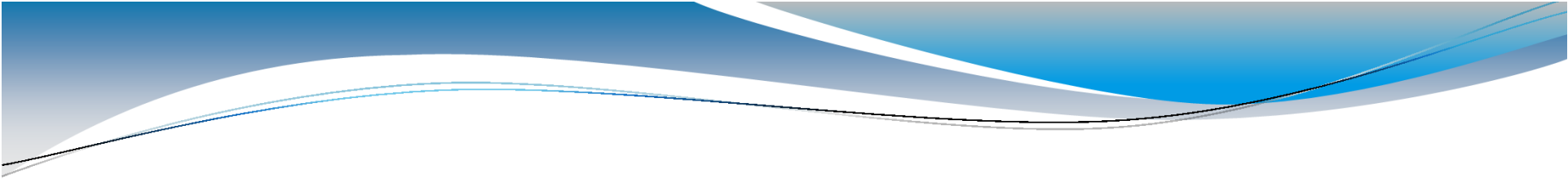
- Does not recognize that Police Services is a "City-wide" Service and is not based on levels of service
- No change to current area rated service boundaries



Option #2

Full Elimination of Police Area Rating

- Recognizes that Police Services is a “City-wide Service”
- Would equally distribute the cost of the Police Services budget to all ratepayers in the City of Belleville based on their property’s tax class and assessment values. The Police Services budget would become part of the City’s Core (General Tax Levy).
- Consistent with other Ontario Municipalities (Kingston, Quinte West, Peterborough, Hamilton, etc.)



Option #3

Phase-in the Elimination of Police Area Rating

- Allows a gradual transition to any tax impacts resulting from elimination of area rating



Concerns

Review of issues and concerns raised by Council, staff and ratepayers since amalgamation:

- The need for a consistent implementation plan when changes occur in service levels.
- Tax impacts
- Police Services is it a City-wide Service or a Area Rated Service
- Service delivery
- Zone Policing
- Approved Revised Fire Master Plan
- City's Strategic Plan identifies future requirements for Urban and Rural Services



Staff Recommendations

- That following a public consultation/information process, the proposed urban/rural method of area rating and related phase-in plan be referred to Council in 2018 and implemented starting in 2019 for Fire
- Elimination of Area Rating for Police Service budget starting in 2018
- Phase-in the Elimination of Area Rating for Police Service budget starting in 2018 over 3 years
- Status Quo