

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: July 13, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHEAD.....

Request for an Independent, Provincial review of Forensic Psychiatric Patient Escapes from the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit (Hamilton) and Mandatory GPS Monitoring for those Forensic Psychiatric Patients with Outside Passes

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton understands the significant work and value of the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit in the treatment and reintegration of forensic psychiatric patients into the community;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton supports the spirit of reintegration into the community of those experiencing mental health issues, who have been involved in a criminal act, upon the completion of the appropriate rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, there have been approximately 26 patients, who have gone missing, from the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit in the last three years;

WHEREAS, two of the three patients who have escaped in the last 4 weeks had deemed as being high-risk, violent offenders by the Ontario Review Board;

WHEREAS, although Mohawk College, which is adjacent to the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit, has protocols in place to protect the students in the buildings when notified of an escape, cannot protect students outside of the facility or in student housing;

WHEREAS, the community is demanding that higher standards of monitoring and securing the forensic psychiatric patients at the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit, and the right to not only feel safe, but to be safe;

WHEREAS, although the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit has protocols in place to address matters of missing forensic psychiatric patients, those protocols are clearly not sufficient;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in the interest of public safety and to assist the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit in determining more effective methods of monitoring and securing forensic psychiatric patients, the Mayor correspond with the Honourable

Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-term Care, to request the Ministry to perform an independent, provincial review of all escapes to-date from this facility, and to provide a report of their findings and recommendations; and,

- (b) That the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-term Care, also be requested to consider making it mandatory for all forensic psychiatric patients, who have outside passes, to be fitted with a GPS monitor to assist those charged with their custody and treatment to better monitor the whereabouts of those patients.