

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

BOARD OF HEALTH DATE: November 18, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA

Declaration of an Opioid Crisis in the City of Hamilton

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis is affecting municipalities across Ontario, including Hamilton;

WHEREAS, opioid-related overdose emergency department visits and opioid-related deaths are increasing annually in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the number of overdose emergency department visits for people living in the City of Hamilton is highest for opioids compared to other substances, accounting for 574 opioid overdose emergency department visits in 2018;

WHEREAS, from January to December of 2018 there were 123 opioid-related deaths, representing a 40% increase over the previous year;

WHEREAS, Hamilton's 2018 opioid-related death rate was 109% higher than or more than double the provincial rate (21.3 deaths per 100,000 population vs. 10.2 per 100,000 for Ontario);

WHEREAS, in 2018, Hamilton had the 3rd highest opioid-related mortality rate among health units in Ontario, and Hamilton had the highest opioid mortality rate among health units in southern Ontario;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City of Hamilton had the 4th highest opioid-related mortality rate among large urban population centres in Ontario;

WHEREAS, to date in 2019 (January 1 to November 6) Hamilton Paramedic Services has responded to 516 incidents related to suspected opioid overdoses, close to 12 per week or 2 per day; and,

WHEREAS, life expectancy in Canada has stopped increasing for the first time in more than four decades, due largely to soaring overdose deaths nationally, in particular, among young adult men.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Health recommend to Council to acknowledge and declare an Opioid Overdose Emergency in the City of Hamilton.