



January 4, 2023

Councillor Alex Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of Hamilton Health Sciences' McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH) to enthusiastically encourage your support toward the gifting of the parcel of city-owned property located at 41 South St. in Dundas to Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice (DBKH) for the purposes of creating a Pediatric Hospice.

In 2022, MCH and DBKH entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to build and operate a 10-bed pediatric-specific hospice to provide palliative, end-of-life and bereavement services to children and families in our community and region. The need for this care is tremendous.

At any given time, upwards of 500 young people in the Hamilton region could benefit from hospice palliative care services. Currently, this care is being provided through a patchwork of providers, including hospital, community and in the patient's home. Too much time is spent traversing between facilities and appointments, not making lasting family memories in a caring, comfortable environment.

You may also be surprised to know that while Hamilton is blessed with a world-class children's hospital, we do not have an affiliated pediatric hospice; unlike most other regions in Canada. As a result, children and youth with life-limiting conditions and their families are not able to receive the same level of accessible, compassionate and comprehensive care available in other parts of the province and country.

The property at 41 South St. is ideal to deliver the envisioned home and care offering. For example, the typical pediatric hospice experience is much longer than the adult experience; often years compared to days. This requires pediatric hospices to provide robust programming for the patient, parents and siblings to help maintain some level of normalcy for the family during their journey. This property's physical space and adjacency to nature are key to delivering the best experience for families at various stages of palliative care journeys.

The property is also close to MCH, which is a requirement for seamless transitions between hospital and hospice for families and care providers. It is a short distance to services and shopping which is essential for families during longer-term stays at the hospice. It is also perfectly sized to deliver the residential program (10 hospice bed/family suites), day and medical clinic program, as well as a community-facing centre for grief and bereavement.

This piece of necessary health infrastructure will complete the circle of pediatric palliative care in Hamilton that has been building over the past decade. In partnership with DBKH, MCH's team of clinical experts is fully committed to delivering the highest-quality compassionate care that is so desperately needed by many children and families in our community. DBKH has developed an excellent proposal for this project and is lining up significant community and financial support

to get it off the ground. This gift of land will ensure more project funds can be dedicated to life-enhancing services, opportunities for creating memories, and crucial support for those in the process of grieving and rebuilding.

I am pleased to make myself available to discuss this project, our partnership with DBKH and the many benefits of this property relating to a pediatric hospice at your request and convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce P. Squires". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being the most prominent.

Bruce P. Squires
President, McMaster Children's Hospital
Vice President, Women's & Children's Health
Hamilton Health Sciences
squiresb@hpsc.ca

cc: Danielle Zucchet, CEO, Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice
cc: Rob MacIsaac, President & CEO, Hamilton Health Sciences
cc: Sharon Pierson, EVP Clinical, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Executive,
Hamilton Health Sciences