



CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX

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Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON, M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

June 19, 2023

5.3

BY EMAIL

RE: Local Emergency Response System and Gaps in Healthcare regarding Code Red and Code Black Frequency

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

Further to Town of Essex resolution number **R23-05-203** passed on May 15, 2023, we enclose a letter from Town of Essex Mayor Sherry Bondy for your review and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jmall", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Malandrucolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
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encl.

c.c. Mary Birch, County of Essex
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Anthony Leardi, MPP
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Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

The Town of Essex Council hereby appeals to the province of Ontario to acknowledge the challenges faced by our local emergency response system and take decisive action to resolve the gaps in our healthcare. While we recognize that our situation is not unique, we believe that it is essential to draw attention to our persistent Code Red and Code Black conditions, which are primarily caused by an insufficient number of hospital beds, medical personnel, and resources.

Windsor and Essex County residents ought to have confidence that when they dial 911 it will elicit a prompt ambulance response for emergency situations. Local healthcare providers are engaging various initiatives such as a paramedic offload program, offload to the waiting room for assessment and triage of less severe medical matters, diversion to another hospital for low acuity cases, and the Essex-Windsor EMS paramedic patient navigator to monitor and manage dispatch. Nevertheless, these initiatives alone have been unable to curb the escalation of Code Red and Code Black frequency, signifying few or no ambulances available for emergencies.

In the year 2021, Windsor-Essex experienced a cumulative of 3253 minutes in Code Red and 791 minutes in Code Black. In 2022, the period subjected to Code Red increased significantly to 8086 minutes, whereas Code Black saw 2257 minutes. In March 2023, just three months into the year, the community has clocked 864 Code Red minutes already plus another 2257 Code Black minutes.

We implore the authorities to apply an immediate and comprehensive review of our hospital offload delays and staffing crisis in our front line. Ambulance offload processes and hospital volumes are merely two contributing factors, if nothing tangible is done, local families risk experiencing catastrophic consequences. Our former Warden, McNamara, declared an emergency on ambulance unavailability in October 2022 linked to hospital admission delays; to date, this emergency situation still holds with no decrease in Code Reds and Code Blacks.

We require a holistic solution to address our hospital deficiencies and healthcare shortcomings on an underlying basis. In addition, the Town of Essex Council request that the province of Ontario conduct a review of projected population growth and aging in Windsor – Essex and increase health care capacity to match our present and future needs.



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Therefore, the Town of Essex Council requests that the province of Ontario recognize the dangerous strain facing our local emergency response infrastructure and urgently work to address these gaps in our healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Bondy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherry Bondy

Mayor

Town of Essex