

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Public Works Committee: February 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Review of the City-owned Escarpment Staircases

WHEREAS, in the United Nations report [Cities Alive: Designing Cities That Work For Women](#) published in October 2022, it is stated that “without a gender-responsive approach to urban planning, cities often compound gender inequalities that restrict women’s social and economic opportunities, health and wellbeing, sense of safety and security, and access to justice and equity”;

WHEREAS, the rate of police-reported sexual assaults in Canada has reached its [highest levels](#) since 1996;

WHEREAS, Hamilton’s sexual assault centre has seen a ‘dramatic increase’ in calls to their 24-hour support line over the past three years;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is responsible for five escarpment staircases to provide recreational facility and active transportation links between the mountain and lower city;

WHEREAS, in December 2021, an unknown man approached a resident, Tara McFadyen, and attempted to sexually assault her during her morning daylight workout on the escarpment stairs; and

WHEREAS, other residents who have survived sexual violence that has occurred on the escarpment stairs have raised the alarm bell on the need for the City of Hamilton to do better and be responsive;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) review of the five City-owned escarpment staircases and report back on recommendations to improve the safety of escarpment staircase use specifically to prevent sexual violence, including any considerations to be referred to the 2024 budget process for consideration.