

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

Council: June 12, 2024

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

**Amendment to Item 4 of the Board of Health Report 23-002, respecting Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework**

WHEREAS, at its meeting of February 22, 2023, City Council approved Item 4 of Board of Health Report 23-002, respecting Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework;

WHEREAS, Counts of opioid-related and substance-related harms can exhibit significant variability quarter to quarter, resulting in difficulty identifying meaningful changes in trends on a quarterly basis. Analysis of trends among subgroups (e.g. age and sex groups) on a quarterly basis is also limited by small counts for many groups;

WHEREAS, Local drug alerts will be communicated to City Council on a go forward basis to ensure that Council are notified of time sensitive information related to unusual local overdose activity. Hamilton Public Health collaborates with community partners to initiate drug alerts through weekly monitoring of surveillance trends and reports from the community and community partners about unusual substances and overdose symptoms.

WHEREAS, The Hamilton Opioid Information System is updated every week, with indicators updated as data are made available. Indicators include opioid-related EMS calls (weekly updates), naloxone distribution (quarterly to semi annual updates), opioid-related ED visits and hospitalizations (monthly updates), opioid-related deaths (monthly updates), and suspect drug-related deaths (monthly updates). The Hamilton Opioid Information System is accessible at <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/alcohol-drugs-gambling/hamilton-opioid-information-system>; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (i) That Item 4 of the Board of Health Report 23-002, respecting Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework, ***be amended***, to read as follows:

**4. Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework (Item 11.1)**

- (a) That City staff be directed to provide ***Semi Annual*** reports on opioid-related harms and all deaths related to toxic drugs to the Board of beginning in Q4 2024; and
- (b) That City staff be directed to:
  - (i) Convene with local stakeholders, including people with lived and living experience, health, and drug policy experts, to develop an evidence-based harm reduction action plan for the purpose of addressing high rates of opioid-related deaths with a completion and report back to the Board of Health on June 12, 2023; and
  - (ii) That these consultations and action plan specifically consider how to implement safer use spaces and other evidence-based harm reduction strategies both in the City and in the Houseless serving sector.