

LION ADVOCACY

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Advocating for responsible vaccine rollouts

Sent via Email: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Premier Doug Ford, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Town of Cobourg

October 22, 2024

Dear Mayor and Honorable Members of Council:

I refer to the attached Communication, being item 5.1 on tomorrow's Council Agenda - a resolution from the Town of Cobourg re: "Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addiction Issues."

This communication should not be received.

Council should send a clear message, to Cobourg and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, that "Involuntary Care" is a form of arrest and detention without due process of law, inconsistent with basic human rights and dignity of persons.

Hamilton should send the signal that it will not support such an absurd method of dealing with its mental health and drug problems, especially when there are already tools and mechanisms in place to deal with nuisance, trespass, and mischief (even though these tools can regrettably be abused, which we saw during Covid).

No doubt the province, the country, and each municipality is now dealing with its own failed policies, and most notably the failed policies of the federal government.

This culminated most recently with the Covid-19 response, which I have personally witnessed, and have spoken at length about to various organizations and municipalities, including Hamilton.

Hamilton was merciless in its response to Covid-19, keeping the unvaccinated out of city employment well beyond what most any other provincial or federal employers did. As members of council know, when someone is out of work and shunned from society, they suffer tremendously. Mental health and addiction become quite common in this cohort.

In short, Hamilton played a major part in creating the current mental health and drug crisis on visible display on its streets and in its parks. Now, the city is prepared to receive a communication from another municipality to, essentially, coverup their failures by arresting the victims of the city's terrible policies, and place these vulnerable individuals in facilities with little accountability or independent oversight?

No.



Daniel Freiheit, MBA, LLB
Lion Advocacy



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Town of Cobourg
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October 4, 2024

RE: Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions Issues

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced the creation of highly secure facilities to provide involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues under the Mental Health Act, including dedicated mental health units in correctional centres and regional secure care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cobourg, along with municipalities across Ontario, are facing growing challenges in addressing the complex needs of individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues, which place a significant strain on local emergency services, healthcare systems, community resources, and public safety; and

WHEREAS individuals experiencing severe mental health and addictions issues often cannot voluntarily seek the care they need, and involuntary care, provided with compassion and appropriate safeguards, can ensure they receive the necessary treatment to help stabilize their condition and improve community safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg supports the BC government's approach to providing secure, involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions challenges, as a compassionate and necessary intervention for those unable to seek help on their own; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg urges the Province of Ontario to implement similar measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to secure, involuntary care when necessary; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Premier, Honourable David Piccini, MPP, all other Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario municipalities to seek their endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Lepik".

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills
Development and Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;,
All other Members of Provincial Parliament; and
All Ontario Municipalities