

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE: November 4, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Unsupervised Distribution of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia Including Needles and Crack Pipes

WHEREAS, the Greater Hamilton Health Network is initiating a pilot program where illegal drug use paraphernalia including needles, crack pipes and meth bowls will be distributed without supervision through “HealthBoxes”;

WHEREAS, the Greater Hamilton Health Network is funded and regulated by the Province of Ontario;

WHEREAS, discarded illegal drug use paraphernalia is a direct public health risk to families and children utilizing City parks, greenspace, and other public space; and

WHEREAS, cleaning up discarded needles, crack pipes and other illegal drug use paraphernalia is a significant taxpayer expense and a direct public health risk to City staff who have the task of cleaning up after illegal drug users.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton write to the Minister of Health to request that the Ministry does not fund the unsupervised distribution of illegal drug paraphernalia including needles, crack pipes and meth bowls as part of “Healthboxes”;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton does not support the unsupervised distribution of illegal drug use paraphernalia without the oversight of a qualified healthcare professional, support worker or other qualified individual with a focus on addiction treatment;
- (c) That the unsupervised distribution of illegal drug paraphernalia is not permitted at any City of Hamilton facilities or through facilities receiving funding from the City of Hamilton;
- (d) That City of Hamilton taxpayer funding to any organizations engaged in the unsupervised distribution of drug paraphernalia be referred to the 2025 budget for consideration; and

- (e) That Hamilton Public Health Services continue to promote substance use supply distribution best practices including education and referral to appropriate health and social services.