

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE: November 4, 2024

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS.....

Unsupervised Distribution of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia Including Needles and Crack Pipes

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to write to Ontario's Minister of Health to:
 - (i) Request that the Ministry end funding for the unsupervised distribution of paraphernalia for illegal drug use, including needles, crack pipes and meth bowls as part of "Healthboxes";
 - (ii) Advise that Hamilton's Board of Health **DOES NOT SUPPORT** the unsupervised distribution of paraphernalia for illegal drug use in the City of Hamilton; and
 - (iii) Advise that Hamilton's Board of Health **SUPPORTS** best practices for paraphernalia for illegal drug use distribution under the supervision of a registered healthcare professional, support worker or other qualified individual where opportunities for education and referral to appropriate addictions treatment, health and social services are available.