
Carried Unanimously on a Recorded Vote

12. Motions and Notice of Motions

12.1 Three-digit Suicide and Crisis Hotline

Discussion ensued regarding the need to create a national three-digit suicide crisis hot line number as there are several series of 10 digit numbers in different jurisdictions which does not make it readily accessible to call, noting that the three-digit suicide and crisis hotline number will support mental health and assist people at times of crisis.

Resolution # 642/21

Moved by Councillor Pickles
Seconded by Councillor Ashe

Whereas, the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

And Whereas, on December 11th, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion introduced by MP Todd Doherty, through unanimous consent, to bring a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline line to Canada:

That, given that the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis, the House call on the government to take immediate action, in collaboration with our provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hot-line that is accessible to all Canadians.

And Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200%;

And Whereas, existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

And Whereas, in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

And Whereas, the City of Pickering recognized that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering declares:

1. That the City of Pickering endorse this 988 crisis line initiative; and,
2. That a letter demonstrating Pickering's support be sent to Todd Doherty, MP, Caribou-Prince George, Jennifer O'Connell, MP, Uxbridge-Pickering, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Uxbridge-Pickering, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health, and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC).

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