

Subject: Naloxone Kits in Civic Buildings

Member of Council: Kash Heed

Meeting: Regular Open Council

Notice Provided on: November 24, 2023

For Consideration: By way of a resolution to add an additional item to the agenda on November 27, 2023 in accordance with Procedure By-law No 7560

Background

“Naloxone kits are portable pouches containing an opioid antidote that can be administered by injection or through the nose to revive an unresponsive person who is overdosing.” (www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca)

Also referred to as Narcan, naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose by rapidly reversing symptoms and restoring normal breathing. It can be administered by anyone without the need for medical training. Having naloxone readily available and easily accessible to respond quickly in an emergency can potentially save lives before medical professionals arrive. When compared to the costs associated with emergency services, hospitalizations, and long-term healthcare needs resulting from untreated opioid overdoses, it is a relatively inexpensive medication to prevent deadly outcomes.

The availability of these kits will have a significant impact on public health and community safety by reducing opioid-related deaths. It provides a safety net for individuals who may be at risk of overdose and can help reduce the gap between an overdose and subsequent medical intervention. It will help to reduce the stigma associated with opioid consumption and addiction while sending a message that individuals struggling with acute opioid use and people who use opioids recreationally deserve access to life-saving interventions and support, rather than judgment or punishment.

By preventing fatal overdoses, we can help protect not only individuals who use opioids, but also their families, friends, and communities from the devastating impact of losing a loved one.

Good Samaritan laws have been enacted to protect individuals who administer naloxone in good faith from legal repercussions. Having naloxone available for use ensures that individuals who intervene in an overdose situation are protected by these laws.

Motion

1. That Naloxone Kits are made available for the public to access at all Richmond civic buildings including the Richmond Olympic Oval; and,
2. That procedures for access are developed along the lines of access to Automated External Defibrillators.