



Toronto Police Service

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Mark Saunders
Chief of Police

File Number: -----

June 24, 2016

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health
277 Victoria St., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

Dear Dr. McKeown,

I have been asked to provide a letter of support in relation to the Supervised Injection Services proposed by Toronto Public Health. Regulations under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act require that the local police provide a report of our assessment of the sites as part of the overall process. I will provide that report as required at the appropriate time and as more information about the program and its operation become available.

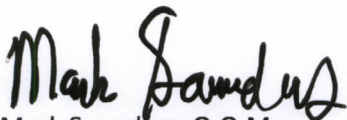
In the meanwhile, I am prepared to offer some comment on the proposal. Society has recognized the public safety issues that arise as a result of ongoing illicit drug use and addiction. These issues manifest themselves in many ways in the life of an individual and in the life of a community. I have always been of the view that a person afflicted by addiction needs the opportunity to be treated in a holistic fashion and to be offered services to become and remain whole. Ideally this would be the goal of services provided to persons in need at the Supervised Injection Sites.

I also recognize that because of the criminal nature of the activity of possessing and using illegal drugs persons are often made more vulnerable from a health perspective by the need to hide the activity. There have been overdoses, deaths and other health related concerns that have arisen as a result of the ingestion of illegal drugs, including the spread of disease. One aspect of the supervised Injection site program is the effort to provide information to its clients to undertake activities designed to break the cycle of addiction, encouragement to rehabilitate. I see this as a public safety issue as well.

I am supportive of measures that reduce the incidence of overdoses and death as the plan for the Supervised Injection Site program indicates. I remain hopeful that the site's clients will be given meaningful opportunities to be treated and re-integrated into society.

While the your report indicates that you anticipate no increase in crime around the three proposed sites, I will remain vigilant in monitoring criminal activity in the areas as the project rolls out to ensure the communities continue to enjoy a high level of public safety. I am hopeful that neighbourhood and community concerns about safety and security are considered and plans are made to address these issues and look forward to working with you, the Mayor and other community stakeholders as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Saunders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.
Chief of Police

C – Mayor John Tory