

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM17.9	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Data regarding deaths in Toronto's Homeless Community - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to instruct the appropriate City staff to collect all relevant data related to the deaths of homeless individuals for occurrences within and outside homeless shelters.
2. City Council direct that the data collected be shared with the public, agencies, City divisions and Provincial Government ministries for the purposes of influencing decision making through policy and legislation.
3. City Council direct the City Manager to correspond with the appropriate staff within the Government of Ontario in support of introducing a provincial mandate to track all deaths of homeless individuals for the purposes of data collection to introduce policy and legislation.

**Summary**

The City does not collect data on the number of individuals that die on the streets of Toronto which occur outside the physical boundaries of our shelter system. This prevents the implementation of policies to position the City of Toronto or the Province of Ontario to address the real statistics when formulating legislation, as well as preparing preventative measures. Recently a Toronto Star article on February 21, 2016 highlighted the issue. It was entitled: [Ontario's uncounted homeless dead | Toronto Star](#).

Data is collected in a number of relevant areas: transportation issues, economic indicators, cycling deaths, pedestrian deaths and much more. Recognizing the members of our communities who live on the street that we lose every year must be a priority as well.

The absence of data on the number of homeless individuals that die every year provides a false account of the true circumstances facing those who live on the streets of Toronto. Accurate data would provide the required information to several governing bodies helping to identify

areas in policies and legislation which need to be improved. Currently there is no official governing department or legislation available to track the number of homeless individuals that die on our streets. If all these deaths are not counted, it becomes impossible to implement the required needs.

In the Province of British Columbia, the Coroner Services collects data on the number homeless individuals who die every year and has since publically released the information to inform policy and legislation.

To date, 217 homeless deaths have been documented inside of the physical homeless shelters in the City of Toronto since 2007, deaths outside the shelters are not included.

Torontonians die on our streets every year – this is an issue we must all do whatever we can to address. Collecting the real data on the number of individuals who die on our streets every year will provide the data required to properly address this issue.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM17.9