

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

MM18.4	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Preventing Suicide Deaths from Bridges - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc**

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

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Board of Health. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health, in collaboration with the General Manager, Transportation Services, the Toronto Police Services Board and mental health experts, to explore the effectiveness and feasibility of options to prevent suicide deaths from bridges in Toronto and to report back to the Board of Health in 2017.

**Summary**

Suicide is a concern in Toronto. In 2009, Toronto Public Health reported there were 243 deaths from suicide in Toronto, which is more than four times the number of people who died from homicide, and three times the number who died from motor vehicle crashes. Suicide results in a loss of life which impacts survivors, observers, family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers.

Jumping from a high place (balconies, bridges) was the second most common mechanism of suicide in Toronto, from 2005-2009 (combined) accounting for 22 percent of deaths. This data does not include individuals who were considering or actively engaged in suicide behaviour by this means.

One of the most effective suicide prevention strategies is restricting access to means which is modifying the environment to prevent and/or reduce suicides and to make it safer for everyone. Environmental modifications to bridges can reduce deaths and ensure the safety of people in cars or pedestrians who are under or near a bridge.

It is time to re-examine suicide deaths from bridges in Toronto to ensure we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of those considering or taking actions to die by suicide and many others who are impacted. Although means restriction is an important and universal suicide prevention intervention, multi-pronged suicide prevention strategies are required to reduce the overall burden of suicide.

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

Member Motion MM18.4

<http://www.toronto.ca/leadocs/mmis/2016/mm/bard/backgroundfile-92565.pdf>