

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

|         |        |  |  |           |
|---------|--------|--|--|-----------|
| MM34.15 | ACTION |  |  | Ward: All |
|---------|--------|--|--|-----------|

### **Support for a 988 Crisis Hotline - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson**

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

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### **Recommendations**

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the 988 crisis hotline initiative.
2. City Council request the City Clerk to advise the Federal Minister of Health, the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Municipalities, the Toronto Members of Parliament and the Toronto Members of Provincial Parliament of City Council's endorsement.

### **Summary**

On December 11, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion, 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) hotline that is accessible to all Canadians.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 percent. Existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold.

In 2022, the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline.

The City of Toronto recognizes that a 988 crisis hotline is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help.

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

Member Motion MM34.15

