



**Councillor Paul W. Ainslie**  
 City of Toronto Councillor  
 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, Scarborough Community Council  
 Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo  
 Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
 Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries  
 Night Economy Champion, City of Toronto

Email: [councillor\\_ainslie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca)

Website: [www.paulainslie.com](http://www.paulainslie.com)

Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

@Ainslie\_ward24



Date: April 25, 2023

To: Councillor Shelly Carroll, Chair and Economic and Community Development Committee Members

Re: Respecting Deceased Homeless in Toronto

## Recommendation

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to resume releasing on a monthly basis, on the last day of each month, data concerning the number of people who die homeless within the City of Toronto, commencing from January 2023.

## Background

On March 17, 2023, Toronto Public Health released data related to the deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness in 2022. The data reported 187 deaths, with the data collected from Participating agencies who serve the homeless and under-housed communities and the City of Toronto's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) division. [Deaths of People Experiencing Homelessness – City of Toronto](#)

Data on homeless deaths was previously released monthly, this practice enabled our divisions to recognize any patterns, address urgent needs and respectfully grieve individuals at the time of their deaths.

In an article published on April 7, 2023, [Shelter death data in Toronto no longer monthly | CTV News](#), the Toronto Homeless Memorial has been quoted as stating the decision to not report monthly, “*is absolutely unacceptable,*” ... “*It takes away a grieving process, and really crucially, [...] it’s further dehumanizing and anonymizing those who are dying in [city] care.*”

I agree.

I hope to have your support in requesting the return of reporting homeless deaths in the City of Toronto on a monthly basis.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie  
 City of Toronto, Councillor  
 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

c.c. [ecdc@toronto.ca](mailto:ecdc@toronto.ca) , Clerk [Nancy.Martins@toronto.ca](mailto:Nancy.Martins@toronto.ca)

Constituency Office  
 Scarborough Civic Centre  
 150 Borough Drive  
 Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7  
 Tel: 416-396-7222

Toronto City Hall  
 100 Queen Street West, Suite C52  
 Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
 Tel: 416-392-4008  
 Fax: 416-392-4006