

Board of Health

From: Emily Mani [REDACTED]
Sent: September 8, 2024 9:32 PM
To: Board of Health
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.HL16.2 on September 9, 2024 Board of Health

Categories: Communication

To the City Clerk:

Please make my submission and name available for public record but redact my contact info.

Please add my comments to the agenda for the September 9, 2024 Board of Health meeting on item 2024.HL16.2, Toronto Public Health 2025 Operating Budget Submission

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

I'm a citizen of Toronto, ward eleven. I've lived here for over twenty years and I have two kids attending elementary school. I'm very concerned about safe consumption sites and the proposed closures by the province. People will continue to use drugs whether or not they have access to a SCS; these closures are NOT in the interest of public health or safety. Without SCS, more people will be using drugs in public, without safe ways to dispose of needles. Most importantly, closing SCS will lead to more overdose deaths among our residents and this is unacceptable. Deaths due to overdose is a public health emergency. I'm urging the city to fund SCS past the province's March '25 closure deadline.

Toronto crime data shows that assault and robbery either declined in neighbourhoods with SCS, or had a smaller increase than neighbourhoods without SCS. Keeping them open is safe, and benefits all residents.

The city needs to ensure their operation permanently, by finding money in the budget.

Thank you! Emily Mani