

June 8, 2026

City Clerk's Office
Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Bravo and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

**Re: Item 2026.EC29.12 — Community Engagement Process to Assess Local
Community Support for Echoes and Nighttime Closure of Barbara Hall Park¹**

On behalf of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), please accept this submission in relation to Item 2026.EC29.12.

HALCO endorsed The AIDS Memorial Project's Echoes² proposal and urges the Committee to separate discussion about the future of The AIDS Memorial from the debate about fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park.

The AIDS Memorial should be considered on its own terms: as a site of mourning, naming, public memory, dignity, and recognition for people who died of AIDS and for people living with HIV today. It should not be embedded in an agenda item framed around crime, safety, disorder, and enforcement.

We ask the Committee to:

- Support a new and separate business item on The AIDS Memorial and Echoes.
- Recognize The AIDS Memorial as a memorial of national significance.
- Endorse Echoes as the principal framework for The AIDS Memorial.
- Direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to continue working with the HIV positive community to integrate Echoes into the final design for The AIDS Memorial at Barbara Hall Park.
- Delete Recommendation 1 from EC29.12 so that the future of Echoes or The AIDS Memorial is not discussed as part of the debate over fencing and nighttime closure.
- Reject the proposed fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park and reject any approach that displaces unhoused people and people experiencing mental health crises instead of addressing the conditions they face.

¹ Please attach this submission to Item 2026.EC29.12 and cross-post it to any new business item relating to The AIDS Memorial or Echoes that is introduced at the June 9, 2026 meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee.

² Echoes is a community-led proposal for the restoration and expansion of The AIDS Memorial. It has been endorsed by more than 45 AIDS organizations from across Ontario and Canada, four leading local trans organizations, and the Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Peck', written in a cursive style.

Ryan Peck
Executive Director/Lawyer