



To: Economic and Community Development Committee / City Clerk

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

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

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

On behalf of Pozitive Pathways Community Services, I am writing to submit this public letter for distribution to the Economic and Community Development Committee as part of Item 2026.EC29.12.

Pozitive Pathways Community Services endorsed The AIDS Memorial Project's Echoes proposal because our agency, which works with and for people at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS, is deeply committed to safeguarding the histories that shape our collective understanding of resilience, injustice, and community care. We believe the AIDS Memorial is a radical civic landmark and a living document of the struggle against political silence, making its physical and spatial dignity essential to the healing, truth-telling, and remembrance of the entire HIV community across Ontario.

We urge the Committee to separate the future of The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) from the debate about fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park.

The AIDS Memorial deserves to be evaluated strictly on its own merits—as a sacred space for public memory, mourning, healing, and recognition for people living with HIV today and those who died of AIDS. It is entirely inappropriate to embed this monument within a legislative agenda focused on crime, enforcement, and park disorder.

This administrative distinction is critical. While the Committee holds the power to amend or remove specific recommendations, it cannot alter the baseline summary text of the current item. Consequently, leaving the Memorial attached to this motion permanently links it in the public record to a narrative of public safety crises. This is a profound disservice to a site of such deep historical and community significance.

Echoes represents a thoughtful, community-led framework for the expansion and restoration of The AIDS Memorial. It currently carries a powerful, broad consensus, having been endorsed by more than 45 HIV/AIDS and AIDS service organizations across the



province and country, four prominent local trans organizations, and the Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association.

We ask the Committee to:

- Support a new and separate business item on The AIDS Memorial and Echoes, introduced by a councillor other than Councillor Moise.
- Recognize The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) as a memorial of national significance.
- Endorse Echoes as the principal framework for the restoration, expansion, interpretation, and long-term recognition of 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 the existing item no longer uses Echoes or The AIDS Memorial 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.
- By anchoring a widely supported memorial proposal to a highly divisive park-closure debate, Councillor Moise's motion has caused unnecessary harm and grief. The community should not be forced to accept this flawed framing, nor should the necessary correction of this issue be leveraged for political credit by the councillor responsible for the complication.
- The historical weight of The AIDS Memorial extends far beyond the boundaries of a single municipal ward. It safeguards the names, grief, and heritage of individuals from all across Toronto, Ontario, and Canada. The realities of HIV and the losses of the AIDS epidemic touch every single ward in this city.
- We call on the Committee to take the right course of action: separate the memorial from the fence debate, endorse a fresh motion dedicated to Echoes, and accord The AIDS Memorial the dignity and respect it deserves.

Sincerely,

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