



Motion without Notice

Overdose Prevention and Response by frontline TTC Employees

Moved by: Commissioner Brad Bradford

Seconded by: Commissioner Jennifer McKelvie

Urgency Statement

As outlined in the Overdose Action Plan: Status Report 2019, preliminary data from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario shows that in 2018 there were 1,363 opioid overdose deaths in Ontario, 294 of which were in Toronto. Data also shows that paramedics attend to a higher volume of suspected opioid overdose cases in summer months.

Understanding that the TTC has already taken steps internally, it is crucial that we work together with Toronto Public Health, the Toronto Drug Strategy Chair and The Works to formalize and develop a comprehensive approach to training frontline TTC staff and providing naloxone kits for potential life-saving scenarios.

Summary

In consideration of this important public safety matter, and the concerns set out in the attached petition submitted on this issue, it is pleasing to hear that TTC Special Constables are actively receiving training in overdose response. Staff have informed me that all TTC Special Constables have completed an online training module on Naloxone use. In the coming weeks TTC Special Constables will advance to hands-on training to be provided by Toronto Public Health staff on Naloxone use. The TTC is already in possession of Naloxone kits which will be distributed once the required training is complete. Phase 2 will see Naloxone training and distribution of the kits expanded to include all Transit Fare Inspectors.

As a key agency in the City of Toronto that provides service to 1.7 million riders a day it is great to hear that work is progressing on this important issue to ensure that the TTC is equipped to effectively respond to these emergencies. Given the important work also being undertaken on this urgent matter by key public health stakeholders in Toronto, it is advisable that the TTC be involved in all important dialogue and consultation around the development of the City of Toronto's overdose prevention strategy.

Recommendation

1. The TTC Board receive for information the attached petition requesting frontline TTC employees be trained in overdose recognition and response and equipped with lifesaving naloxone.
2. The TTC Board request the Chief Executive Officer to participate with Toronto Public Health the Chair of the Toronto Drug Strategy, and the Works Agency in their development of a comprehensive overdose prevention strategy.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Petition

Date: June 10, 2019

Equip TTC Employees with Lifesaving Naloxone



Toronto is in the midst of an overdose epidemic, which is devastating communities across the country. 308 Torontonians died from an opioid overdose in 2017 - a 63% increase from 2016 - and opioid overdose deaths have nearly doubled in the first four months of 2019 compared to last year.

TTC employees are often first on the scene to respond to emergencies, and while they are trained in CPR and have access to first aid equipment - they are not currently equipped with naloxone to respond to opioid overdoses.

Overdoses are life-threatening, and the longer an overdose goes untreated, the higher the risk of permanent damage and death. Naloxone reverses opioid overdoses by helping a person breath normally and regain consciousness; it is harmless if administered to someone who is not experiencing an opioid overdose; and it is safe, affordable, and easy to use.

We urge the Toronto Transit Commission and the City of Toronto to ensure that frontline TTC employees are trained in overdose recognition and response and equipped with life-saving naloxone.

**Sign the petition to the TTC Board:
<http://bit.ly/TTCnaloxone>**

