



The Regional Municipality of Durham
Corporate Services Department
Legislative Services Division
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Sent by E-Mail

May 23, 2024

Re: Mental Health and Suicide Awareness through Operation White Heart

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held on May 21, 2024:

WHEREAS Operation White Heart is an awareness project focused on promoting conversations about mental health and suicide, utilizing basic landscaping supplies like mulch and white stones to create a white heart;

AND WHEREAS more than 500 hearts have been installed across Saint John, New Brunswick and the surrounding area since Gary Brown founded Operation White Heart in 2021, including a 16-foot heart at the Giant Steps Wellness Park;

AND WHEREAS according to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 1 in 5 people in Canada will personally experience a mental health problem or illness;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax can show support of individuals who are experiencing a mental health problem or illness and those who have lost loved ones to mental illness by implementing an Operation White Heart public art installation in the Town;

AND WHEREAS individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in Durham Region can call 9-1-1 if they require emergency services, or call and text 9-8-8 to access bilingual, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention support;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

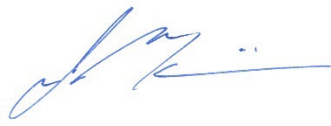
1. Recreation and Culture staff, with support from Operations and Environmental Services, design and install a 12-foot white heart and associated signage at Rotary Park by October 31, 2024;

2. Unbudgeted funds up to \$2,500 be provided using the 2024 Recreation and Culture Operating Budget, as per the Operating Budget Management Policy;
3. Communications and Engagement staff promote the installation on the Town's social channels and invite residents to implement Project White Heart on their own properties; and
4. A copy of this motion be shared with all lower tier Durham Region Municipalities.

CARRIED

If you require further information please contact me at 905-619-2529 ext. 3342 or Jason.McWilliam@ajax.ca.

Sincerely,



Jason McWilliam
Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: Regional Councillor M. Crawford
Councillor L. Bower
All Durham Region municipalities