



## Motion Memorandum

**SUBJECT:** Motion to Endorse the 988 Crisis Hotline Initiative  
**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
**Date to Committee:** N/A  
**Date to Council:** September 21, 2021

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### **Motion for Council to Consider:**

City Council endorse the 988 crisis hotline initiative and request the City Clerk to advise the Federal Minister of Health, the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Municipalities, the Burlington Members of Parliament and the Burlington Members of Provincial Parliament of City Council's endorsement.

### **Reason:**

On December 11, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion, through unanimous consent, to bring a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline line to Canada given that the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis.

The House called on the Government to take immediate action, in collaboration with provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hotline that is accessible to all Canadians.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 percent. Existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold.

In 2022, the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline. The City of Burlington recognizes that a 988 crisis hotline is a significant and

important initiative in ensuring critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help.

Other municipalities, such as the City of Toronto, have already taken similar action to endorse this initiative.

**Outcome Sought:**

Endorse the initiative and communicate said endorsement to other levels of government and key stakeholders as per the motion above.

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

(check those that apply)

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

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Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager – in accordance with the Council Staff Relations Policy and the Code of Good Governance.

**Comments:**

City Clerk: none

City Manager: none