

**- ADDENDUM -**

**- Community & Social Services Committee -**

**- September 11, 2012 -**

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CSS-6      INFORMATION UPDATE RE BRACELET OF HOPE**

- Handout from Anne Gardner, Executive Director, Bracelet of Hope

**CSS-8      DESIGNATED MUNICIPAL HOME FOR LONG-TERM CARE PROJECT**

Delegation:

- Laura Murr



*A bracelet on the wrist of every Canadian  
and one African country AIDS-free.*



*To be the City that makes a  
difference... acting locally and  
globally to improve the lives of  
residents, the broader community  
and the world.*

## **Bracelet of Hope World AIDS Day Celebration**

### **Request to waive River Run Centre rental fee**

The first annual **Bracelet of Hope World AIDS Day Celebration** is an important opportunity for the City of Guelph to show how it can “be the City that makes a difference... acting locally and globally to improve the lives of ... the broader community and the world”. This is a public education and fundraising event to support the fight against AIDS in Lesotho, Africa – a fight that is supported by many Guelph residents.

**The Event:** An evening of special guests and live music at the River Run Centre, all emceed by the CBC’s Jian Ghomeshi. 1 December 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

**The Organisation:** Bracelet of Hope is a Guelph institution. We are a grassroots, community-based organisation started by local family physician Dr. Anne-Marie Zajdlik. We supported the operation of the first AIDS clinic in Lesotho through a massive \$1 million campaign and today have expanded our work to include HEALTH, HOMES and JOBS – supporting Basotho community organisations on the front lines of the pandemic.

**The Request:** As part of the City of Guelph’s efforts to make a difference globally, we are requesting that the City waive the costs associated with the rental of the River Run Centre for Bracelet of Hope’s World AIDS Day Celebration. These costs depend on the number of tickets sold and are estimated at \$5,000 - \$11,000. Staff costs comprise about \$3,500 of the total.

**THANK YOU!!**

TO: City of Guelph Community & Social Services Committee  
September 12, 2012

RE: CSS-8 Designated Municipal Home for Long-Term Care Project

SUBJECT Designated Municipal Home for Long-Term Care Project  
REPORT NUMBER CSS-CESS-1223

I would like to commend the city in moving forward to designate a Municipal Home for Long Term Care.

I have reviewed Report Number CSS-CESS-1223 and have the following comments and concerns:

It is my understanding that the purpose of this process is to designate an existing Long-term care facility (LTC) within the city of Guelph as its designated municipal LTC. The city will allocate funds to this facility.

If I am correct, I have very serious concerns about the scope of this project. It is simply not enough to designate an existing LTC facility as the Municipal Home. We need more LTC facilities in Guelph.

The report before you does not even address the current existing severe shortage of long-term care beds in the City of Guelph. Waiting times for a facility in Guelph can be as long as 2-6 or more years.

I recently participated in looking for a LTC bed for a family member. I would like to make you aware of the following:

- Depending on the LTC facility, the current waiting time for a LTC bed of your choice can be more than 2 to 6 years long.
- Guelph residents are being told they cannot or should not wait for a bed of their choice in Guelph but must take the 1<sup>st</sup> available anywhere in Wellington County, Kitchener Waterloo or Cambridge.
- The available bed may be in a 4 bed ward room in Harriston (a distance of 1hr and 17 mins or over 81 kms one way or Mount Forest. – over 1hr. and 70 kms one way, even though you requested a private room and a 4 bed room in a facility this far away may inappropriate for you loved one and for your family situation.
- If you do not take the 1<sup>st</sup> available bed after being declared alternate level of care you may be told that you will have to pay \$500 a day to stay at St. Joseph's Health Center, even though this is not enforceable and inappropriate.

Designating an existing facility will not create new beds that are so desperately needed here in Guelph.

Placement in a LTC facility outside of Guelph separates a vulnerable individual from their family members and friends who may not be able to visit their loved one, because they don't drive a

car and there is no frequent public transit to North Wellington and other areas of Wellington and Waterloo.

Therefore I urge you to expand the scope of this project to include the following:

- The number of individuals on the waiting lists for LTC in hospitals , assisted living retirement homes and in private homes
- Determine the adequacy of only designating an existing facility(s) to meet the current and future needs of the residents of Guelph
- The report on Guelph's Older Adult Strategy will be coming to Council in late November 2012. Phase 1 of this project reports back in November 2012. The results of both should be brought to council same meeting as they are not exclusive of each other.
- Investigate why are Guelph citizens being sent to 4 bed ward rooms if the Ministry is funding private and semi private rooms?

I understand, that while this report must concern itself with the "business case" and "compliance with legislative requirements" , we cannot and should not forget that choices need to be made that are ethical, in the best interests of those who need LTC beds and finally considers compassionately the weight of suffering both physical and emotional distress of caregivers in the community who have loved ones on the waiting lists for a LTC bed in Guelph.

Yours sincerely

Laura Murr