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Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:35 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola - Registration of AEDs with AED Foundation Ontario

I recently listened to the presentations by several AED foundations and followed the related debate at council. While I appreciate the intent and effort behind promoting AED registries, it is clear that there remains a fundamental misunderstanding of how time-sensitive cardiac arrest response truly is—and how ineffective an AED registry becomes when access is delayed, even by a few minutes.

In theory, knowing the location of nearby AEDs sounds practical. In reality, the time required to *locate, travel to, and return with* an AED—even one just a few hundred meters away—can easily exceed the arrival time of trained first responders. Studies have shown that retrievals as short as 200–400 meters can take four to seven minutes, and longer distances can take up to eight minutes or more. During cardiac arrest, every minute without defibrillation reduces survival by roughly 7–10%. That means even a short delay can be fatal.

The discussions I heard seemed to assume that the registry itself solves the problem. It does not. The core issue is not *knowledge* of where AEDs are—it's *proximity and accessibility*. Unless an AED is located directly at the site of the incident (for example, in the same building, park, or transit hub), sending someone to retrieve it is often slower than waiting for a first responder. In some cases, this well-intentioned step actually wastes precious time.

The only truly effective strategy is to ensure that first responders—police, fire, security, or community responders—carry AEDs with them at all times. Having a responder immediately equipped eliminates retrieval delays entirely and ensures defibrillation can occur within the critical first few minutes, when survival odds are highest.

In short, an AED registry is not a life-saving tool on its own. It is a reference list, not a response solution. If the goal is to save lives, resources would be far better invested in equipping first responders directly, rather than expecting bystanders to act as couriers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your ongoing work to improve emergency readiness in our community. I urge council and AED advocacy groups alike to focus on direct deployment rather than distant registration.