



## **DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**S. Collier, Chair \* G. Cubitt, Vice-Chair**  
**S. Bhatia, Member \* D. Carter, Member**  
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January 26, 2024

### **BY EMAIL**

#### **RE: Support for Transformational Approach to Mental Health and Addictions Emergency Care at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa**

Dear Premier Ford,

I understand that Mayor Carter of the City of Oshawa and representatives of the Durham Regional Police Service met with you on January 19, 2024, to request your support for a transformational approach to mental health and addictions emergency care at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa. I am writing on behalf of the Durham Regional Police Services Board to express our support for this proposal.

As you know, the personal and community impacts of the mental health and addictions crisis are devastating. Mayor Carter's proposal vividly portrays how the crisis is negatively affecting the lives of countless individuals and families as well as the state of our urban centres and the businesses, community groups and citizens who live and work in the downtown cores. The DRPS makes approximately 8 apprehensions per day under the Mental Health Act, a figure that clearly demonstrates the magnitude of the crisis and the strain it is placing on police and emergency services. We believe that alternative approaches are essential to improve community safety and wellbeing while reducing the amount of time the police spend in hospital waiting to transfer patients.

The proposal submitted by Mayor Carter envisions a collaborative mental health and addictions urgent care clinic and wrap-around services at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. This model offers a continuum of care in support of long term solutions, and can be implemented within six months. We strongly believe that this model will produce positive and sustainable impacts on mental health outcomes, alleviate a substantial burden on police services, and exponentially improve the livability and vitality of our community. Your leadership and support for this initiative will help ensure its success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Collier', written in a cursive style.

Shaun Collier  
Chair

c.c.: Mayor Carter, City of Oshawa  
Regional Chair John Henry, Region of Durham  
Chief Peter Moreira, DRPS  
Minister Kerzner, Solicitor General  
Minister Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Durham Region MPPs