

**From:** YorkRegion  
**Sent:** September 18, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Regional Clerk  
**Subject:** Electronic Deputation Request Submission

A deputation request has been submitted on york.ca

Council / Committee meeting and date: **10/3/2019**

Meeting type: **Committee of the Whole**

Agenda item number:

Subject: **HOPE SQUAD Youth Mental Health Program**

Name of spokesperson: **Idanna Auger**

Name of group or person(s) being represented (if applicable): **HOPE SQUAD hopesquad.com**

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation: **HOPE SQUAD is currently in 18 US states, with one branch in Alberta. They began their program 15 years ago in Utah. Their mission is simply this: Teens helping teens in the prevention of youth suicide. HOPE SQUAD is a very different initiative in that the program happens internally within the school environment. Many current initiatives are presentation style format (geared towards ages 15-24) whereas Hope Squad is a peer to peer based support system, on a daily basis starting at age 10-19. HOPE SQUAD TEAMS become the eyes and ears and DNA of the school. 7 out of 10 students will tell a friend they are suffering.....not an adult. HOPE SQUAD TEAMS are nominated by their peers and our age appropriate curriculum is in place starting with a more kindness approach for Elementary Gr.s 4-6 ie: anti-bullying, boundaries and resiliency and Gr.s 7-12 QPR training (Question-Persuade-Refer) and suicide prevention. HOPE SQUAD is Intervention-Prevention-Postvention. Our program also promotes connectedness, inclusivity and school spirit. HOPE SQUAD has a proven track record and have saved thousands of lives, with hundreds being hospitalized. All the research findings, statistics and facts are backed by mental health professionals and Universities and reviewed on a yearly basis. We just recently lost a boy last month from my sons school Keswick High....this is one child too many! It takes a village to raise a child. It takes an entire community to save one! \*\*\* Media coverage includes: People's Magazine June 2019 Article; NBC Nightly News Hope Squad: ABC 4 Utah Interviews and Coverage: A Peer Based Support System; Hope Squad Elementary\*\*\***

Have you been in contact with a Regional staff member or Regional Council Member regarding this matter?: **Yes**

If yes, with whom: **Jonathan Magill**

Contact Name: **Idanna Auger**