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| Received Date  | July 24, 2019 |
| Meeting Date   | July 29, 2019 |
| Open or Closed | Open Session  |

**Subject: Reversing Falls Bridge Barrier**

Dear Mayor Darling and Common Council

In 2017 the provincial government had set money aside to erect a suicide barrier on the Reversing Falls Bridge. This has since been put on hold.

Mayor Darling at the time said that we were concerned with the esthetics of fencing and we reportedly sent a letter to the province asking for the department to look at the design.

Since then, the idea was shelved and citizens still choose to end their lives by jumping from the Reversing Falls Bridge.

Canadian Research has been done on suicide barriers, particularly in Toronto. This research shows that not only did the suicide rate fall from 9.0 deaths per year to 0.1 deaths per year following the installation of the barrier. The study also showed that suicide deaths from all bridges in Toronto declined significantly.

I believe one fact that we did not discuss at the time, and that has brought this back to front of mind for me, is the affect that witnessing an incident of suicide has on bystanders. The Reversing Falls Bridge is a busy, very public space.

For those with mental health concerns, their families and all of those who may be affected by suicide by jumping from the Reversing Falls Bridge, I offer the following motion:

**Motion:** I move that the City of Saint John send a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting the installation of a suicide barrier on the Reversing Falls Bridge.

Sincerely

Gary Sullivan  
Councillor at Large  
City of Saint John



SAINT JOHN

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