

Fair Hospital Parking Charges

Presentation to the
General Committee
City of Markham
November 5, 2012

Our Goals

- To inform the Provincial Government of the problem of rising and unfair parking charges at Ontario Hospitals
- To persuade the Provincial Government to act to reduce and cap parking charges at a fair rate
- To seek the support of City and Town Councils to assist in reaching these goals.

The Issue

The collection of exorbitant parking fees from people at their most vulnerable moments is fundamentally and morally wrong. The sick, the injured, the aged, the disabled, the chronically ill, the frantically-worried cannot advocate for their needs when personal health-care crises are upon them. In the midst of challenging, sometimes tragic circumstances, Ontario hospitals and the governments that support them must not download budgetary pressures upon the hospital clientele.

The City of Markham has the highest number of people living in poverty in York Region .

What We Are Asking Of You

- We appeal to Markham City Council on behalf of the people of Markham to petition the Premier of the Province to take steps to control the parking rates at the hospitals of Ontario.

- Suggested resolution:

The City of Markham hereby requests that the Province of Ontario reduce and cap at a fair rate the parking charges at Ontario Hospitals, including Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Who We Are

- Fair Hospital Parking Charges partnership
- Advocacy group seeking reduction of parking charges at Ontario Hospitals
 - Supported by an interdenominational prayer group, that represents at least seven denominations
 - Alan Powell, John Hazlewood and Elizabeth Plashkes

What We Have Done So Far

- Discussed the rising and unfair parking rates at our local hospital with local elected representatives:
 - Helena Jaczek, MPP
 - Michael Chan, MPP
 - Frank Klees, MPP
 - Mayor Frank Scarpitti, City of Markham
 - Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Councillor Carolina Moretti, Councillor Colin Campbell
 - Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Town of Whitchurch Stouffville
 - Mayor of Newmarket Tony Van Bynen, Councillor John Taylor

What We Have Done So Far

- Discussed the problem of unfair and rising parking rates with local stakeholders:
 - Janet Beed, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital
 - Robert Bull, CFO, Markham Stouffville Hospital
 - Suzette Strong, ED, MSH Foundation
 - Kim Baker, Central LHIN (by letter)
 - Ontario Ministry of Health (contacted several times by letter, email and phone)
 - Markham Ministerial
 - Markham Historical Society
 - MAGIC, Markham Ratepayers Coalition

What We Have Done So Far

Contacted local media, and used a website to spread the word.

- Article about Alan Powell in Markham Economist & Sun (attached)
- FHPC Website <http://fairhospitalparkingcharges.org/>
- See also:
- Article by Dr. Rajendra Kale, Editor in chief, Canadian Medical Association Journal (attached)
- Episode of White Coat, Black Art, Dr. Brian Goldman, on CBC – November, 2011 (<http://www.cbc.ca/whitecoat/episode/2011/10/28/park-your-frustration-show/>)
- OPSEU blog episode on parking at hospitals (<http://diablogue.org/2012/10/10/tired-of-the-high-cost-of-hospital-parking-try-not-paying/>

Parking Charges At MSH

- \$4.00 per half hour
- There is no cap on these fees.
- MSH works in concert with other Central LHIN hospitals to set rates
- The City of Markham collects and retains revenue from parking violations at MSH.

Parking Charges

At Other Ontario Hospitals

- Uxbridge - \$2 per hour, \$6 daily maximum
- Kitchenner – \$2.50 per half hour, \$10 maximum
- Oakville - \$3 per half hour, with 15 minute grace period for drop off
- Barrie - \$3 per half hour
- 5 hospitals, which own parking lots, in Ontario do not charge for parking
- Many world-class hospitals, such as Princess Margaret Hospital, manage with no parking revenue at all

Municipal Parking Meter Charges

In The City Of Markham

- \$2 per day
- Most places are free
- The most expensive place to park in this City is the only major health care facility: Markham Stouffville Hospital

What We Are Not Doing

This is not a campaign to undermine the excellent work of our hospitals. We ask only that the people of Ontario, as the key stakeholders in the health care system, be engaged in the decisions that affect them so closely.

Our request to Markham City Council

- That Markham City Council pass the following motion:

“The City of Markham hereby requests that the Province of Ontario reduce and cap at a fair rate the parking charges at Ontario Hospitals, including Markham Stouffville Hospital.”