

September 1, 2023.

City of London
Municipal Council
c/o Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: Security needs for the Sisters of St. Joseph Hospitality Centre, St. Joe's Café

The city and hospital-led initiative on Health and Homelessness is a potentially new moment in a municipality engaging a whole community in declaring, "This level of misery cannot continue in our city."

The Sisters of St. Joseph operate St. Joe's Café at 602 Queens as part of a partnership with London Cares Homeless Response, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and Thames Valley Family Medical Team. We have experienced that having security 24/7 in the outside area of 602 Queens has been not only helpful but also essential for the safety of our clients/guests and our staff. While we recognize that the neighbours have some concerns about our service in their area, there would be agreement that the security service we have engaged has made a positive difference.

We are aware that the city has supported the cost of security so far. To stop now would create a situation in which we could not continue parts of the service at 602 Queens Avenue. The Sisters of St. Joseph would continue to operate St. Joes Café since we regularly serve 350 meals a day. Equally important, we help create connections for people to find supportive housing, which of course is a clear connection to the goals of the Summit.

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph and in collaboration with our partners, I ask you to please endorse the continued funding of security services at 602 Queens Avenue.

Sincerely,



Sister Margo Ritchie, Congregational Leader

Cc: Anne Armstrong, Martin McIntosh, Mike McMahon