

Good evening,

I would like to respond to the disturbing news of the City of London establishing a homeless hub for mentally ill and drug addicted women at the Black Pearl Restaurant. My response is not so much a 'not in my neighbourhood' response because frankly I'm well enough isolated from this particular bad decision. It appears the city continues to digress by responding to symptoms instead of causes. Regarding the homeless issue, I am opposed to establishing homeless hubs anywhere in the city.

The homeless situation has increased beyond the city's traditional resources because other centres are busing their homeless to London. Our deputy mayor is addressing this issue. He needs to do a better job by taking a firmer position with those centres. Consider suing for expenses incurred such as resources to identify where the homeless resided previously, temporary housing and meals and the cost of return bus fare to that centre.

There should be some pushback to the Provincial government for having closed hospital facilities such as the London Psychiatric Hospital. It was a better solution than putting the residents to the curb. Yes there was a suggestion of social workers helping to place the mentally ill and addicted. I'm sure landlords lined up for the opportunity to house these people. Actually many ended up displacing seniors at 580 Dundas St and 241 Simcoe St and you have seen what has become of these buildings. The areas surrounding these buildings, including the Centre of Hope have become crime ridden. By the way, I am a landlord. The excessive amount of homeless are responsible for much shoplifting in grocery stores, big box stores, LCBO, and shopping malls. Each of which has a hands off policy to stopping theft. By the way, I am also a retired police sergeant. Our courts and justice system have taken a position of leniency causing businesses to find it less confrontational to accept the loss and pass it on.

To address the Black Pearl location we should consider it is flanked by senior residences i.e. McGarrell Place, Amica, Masonville Place and Fox Hollow. During my policing career, a common occurrence at 850 Highbury Ave were 'jumpers'. Residents waiting at the curb of Highbury Ave northbound and jumping into traffic. Part of the investigation was to discern suicide or accidental death. The Black Pearl offers the same venue to Fanshawe Park Rd west bound. It is a 60 kmph zone where traffic travels a minimum of 75-80 kmph and some do more. This road accommodates heavy trucks at high speed.

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