

Attn: City of London Council Members

As a resident of Ward 7, living near the proposed homeless hub at the Black Pearl/Lighthouse Inn, I am deeply concerned of the issues the neighbourhood, businesses and community will have to contend with if this program/site is granted approval for rezoning.

There are neighboring homes with very young families within a 2-3 min walk of the existing Inn, as well as a Toy Store adjacent to the property, and many small businesses such as a grocer and sandwich shops that employ very young teenagers.

Although I wholeheartedly agree that the needs of those living rough are great, this is not the appropriate site for such a program.

It is a fact that crime, and drug use increase in the area of such facilities.

As was exhibited at the Elizabeth St./McMahen Park temporary winter shelter. Crime and drug use, including drug paraphernalia increased in the neighbourhood surrounding McMahren Park. The site was operational just before christmas 2021, and within weeks the lives of residents along McMahren st were negatively affected by the individuals staying at the site.

There is far fewer people experiencing homelessness and living rough in Ward 7, then there are in Wards 1, 4, and 13. This proposed location will draw more people in need to this area who will not be able to be housed and instead will seek shelter in Medway Valley and behind businesses near the Lighthouse Inn. This will not provide any help for these additional people and instead increase crime in the nearby residential areas.

The city is unable to provide adequate police resources as is, and this will negatively affect the safety and lives of all residents in Ward 7.

As Mayor Morgan recently stated,

"We know that the types of individuals who will go in these hubs consume massive amounts of resources in the hospital system, land ambulance, police contacts, and impacts on businesses,"

There is absolutely no proof that these hubs will curb crime, drug use, police contact, impacts on businesses, or hospital/ambulance resources.

This proposed hub will instead bring more of all of these issues to Ward 7.

As a council, you need to look at building additional services/hubs in the core area of the city and in the Wards where there are more people affected by homelessness.

Anne Marie Les,
Ward 7 resident