

For the public SPPC agenda ref location of Homeless Hubs.

I became aware yesterday of the City of London's proposed location of the initial 5 hubs to help resolve the city's homeless crisis.

My spouse and I and our 8 year old daughter live on Hickorystick Key - less than 2 blocks from the proposed 705 Fanshawe Park Rd West location to support marginalized women.

We, along with our neighbors, are very aware of the housing crisis facing London and do support the city's efforts to provide relief and aid to those in need. I am extremely proud of the efforts made by the City and our advocates both Provincially and Federally to raise funding - *it is an accomplishment to be the first to secure the substantial Federal funding announced last week*. This funding will certainly help, however much more will be required - therefore available funds must be spent as efficiently as possible.

I am concerned about the location near my home - this location simultaneously isn't an efficient investment of Hub funds as it doesn't "meet people where they're at" AND it creates a homeless problem in an area of the city where there currently isn't one (with the associated risks and costs.)

The City established requirements for the locations of the Hubs

(<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6909797>), this location doesn't meet those requirements:

- There isn't a homeless presence in the area and therefore the location doesn't "meet people where they're at". In fact, a CBC article today quoted the following from an unhoused individual specifically with reference to this Women's Hub *"I'd be able to take the bus there, anybody could, right? But that is pretty far." At best, this distance is an inconvenience, at worst it could require momentum our most disadvantaged people aren't able to overcome*. This location is an inefficient use of funds because of it's limited accessibility.

- This location is not currently zoned for this use. Additionally, this location is not near any Emergency Services should they be required.

- This location is near a children's park - 600m from the Vista Woods Park on Medway Park Dr. This park and the nearby path through the woods are used frequently by Sir Arthur Currie Elementary School and associated child care programs as an educational field trip. Finally, while not a park, the proposed location is immediately next to the children's toy store Mastermind Toys.

If a Hub is opened at this location, a homeless situation will be created in this area of the city where there currently isn't one. Compared to today:

- Myself, my family and our neighbors can expect a 50+% increase in crime (link to study below).

- We can also unfortunately expect this location to *attract predatory males looking to take advantage of the marginalized women that this shelter is planned to support*. This will put my daughter and the daughters of my neighbors in proximity to this threat. (Link to study below)

- Compared to today, this will require an increase in Police presence in the area and the associated funding from the city.

The goal must be to react with urgency to help the most people with the available funds - such a location would be near the homeless in order to "meet them where they're at" . These locations are already impacted by elevated crime and the associated policing costs.

In the strongest terms, I ask the City of London to reconsider the location of this Hub, to follow their own requirements for Hub location and to ensure that available funding is spent in the most efficient manner possible such that significant marginalized individuals get the help they need.

Respectfully,
Andrew Service

- also sent to sppc@london.ca -

Links to articles / references below:

Proposed women's shelter requires a bus ride

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/here-are-the-first-5-proposed-addresses-for-london-s-homeless-hubs-1.6972703>

Increase in crime nearby

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/effect-emergency-winter-homeless-shelters-property-crime#:~:text=Results,and%20vandalism%20driving%20the%20increase>.

Unwanted predatory visitors

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/staff-at-kitchener-youth-homeless-shelter-alarmed-over-dramatic-increase-in-unwanted-visitors-1.6225226>

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