

I am writing with significant opposition to the plan for a new Homeless Hub intended for my neighbourhood. We are undoubtedly opposed to the site proposed on Fanshawe Park Rd W just west of Wonderland Rd.

My husband and I purchased our family home 10 years ago in the then new Hickory Heights Neighbourhood near Wonderland Rd N and Fanshawe Park Rd W. We now have 2 young children and have proudly helped to grow a safe and family-friendly community with our neighbors and peers.

News of the Hub planned for the site of the Black Pearl property is very concerning as it is only a few hundred meters from our home, less than a 5 minute walk.

The unfortunate reality is that concentration of drug addicted and severely mentally unstable populations are associated with increases in crime, violence, and nuisances. We feel the location of the proposed Hub puts our family's safety and well-being at risk.

The location adjacent to a children's toy store (Mastermind Toys) is completely inappropriate and unacceptable. Additionally, our children's public elementary school is in the neighborhood adjacent to the proposed site. We have an over-crowded school with 17 portables and no play ground. Our children are often walking unattended to and from the main building and also often use the nearby park for physical education classes. Having the Hub within short walking distance from this school were our kids are forced out from the safe confines of the main building and property undoubtedly puts our kids at risk of exposure to unstable individuals and drug paraphernalia. While we do not yet have secondary school-aged children, many of our community kids attend St Andre Bissette Secondary School and proposed Hub also puts them at risk.

The safety and well-being of children should always be first and foremost in any thoughtful society. It is what has prompted us to write in opposition to the Hub. We and our fellow community parents always put the well-being of children first. With the proposal of the Hub site, we are extremely disappointed to realize that children's best interests are not top priority with this City Council.

With children's safety first and foremost, our next thoughts go to the well-being of the rest of our established community including the vulnerable elderly at the nearby Amica Retirement Residence and then to our neighborhood businesses.

We currently enjoy a very walkable neighbourhood. We currently walk for groceries, pharmacy, children's items, hair cuts, dental care, physiotherapy, massage therapy, music lessons, nail salon services, take out meals, and more several times each week. All of these establishments are within a few minutes walk from the proposed Hub. For the reasons listed earlier, we will no longer feel safe walking. We will drive instead and possibly drive further out of our neighbourhood to find alternatives. We are disappointed to be forced out of our own neighbourhood in this way which will inevitably increase our overall carbon foot print. We are sad for our community businesses who have already suffered the significant burden of the Covid years and will undoubtedly face loss of clients/customers with the City's plan. We are disappointed that the City has not considered these negative business and environmental impacts.

Finally, I was disappointed to learn there is little opportunity for public input on the matter. We heard of the proposed site via local news only yesterday and my understanding is that input is only being collected until tonight at 9pm. Most of us in the neighborhood work full time and have family needs to

tend to. We should have been given more and explicit notice for input. Please consider extending your deadline so everyone has a chance to have their voice heard.

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider my concerns which I know are shared by many. We absolutely oppose the proposed Hub site on Fanshawe Rd W or any others that may have similar issues. Please ask ourselves if you would agree to have this Hub in your own front yard?

Desiree Newlove and family