

I was told to forward my email regarding concerns for the proposed homeless hub at the black pearl. Please see below:

Hi,

I heard that sending you a message about the homeless hub at the Black Pearl to voice my opinion was an option, not sure if it will make a difference but I have to try. I wanted to express my concerns. I agree that something needs to be done with all the homeless in London as this has become a huge problem over the last 5 plus years or maybe longer. I heard about the homeless hubs being a possibility and I agree this could be a good option, I also heard they will not be in residential neighbourhoods. Great! I thought, this sounds wonderful. Then I heard that the Black Pearl motel on Fanshawe Park road is a chosen site for one of these hubs. Is this not way too close to a residential neighborhood? I heard that the hub here will be geared towards females with drug addiction and mental health. Well, I work with seniors with mental health and see what they can do and I am honestly afraid of what a young adult female with mental health and drug addiction is capable of doing. Family homes are literally within a 3-5 min walk of the pub. Also, the ravine is a dark secluded area at night that can, and no doubt, will be used as a meeting place. At the moment I feel safe walking my dog in the ravine as it gets dark, I fear I will not feel safe for long. I am concerned for the businesses nearby that will be affected by the loitering of these individuals outside and on their premises. Is extra law enforcement being added to these areas to maintain the safety of the local residents. I fear that drug paraphernalia will be left in nearby parks, Jaycee park is within a five minute walk of the Black Pearl and children play there regularly. It also holds a community garden that members pay a fee for and who's to say what will be stolen out of or dumped into those plants. The Black Pearl, even though located on Fanshawe park road, is right in the middle of a Foxhollow and Whitehills neighborhood with many young family homes and schools located nearby. I worry about the safety of our children walking to and from Emily Carr, St. Marguerite, Banting, St. Andre Bessette and Sir Arthur Currie schools. I would like to express my complete opposition to this being a location for one of the purposed hubs.

Thank you for your time reading my email and hoping to have my concerns pushed forward.

Melanie Spicer