

Dear council members,

Hope this email finds you well

I am a resident in Fox Hollow neighbourhood and I am writing to you to share our concerns as a family regarding the new homeless hub intended to operate at 705 Fanshawe Park Road West

I am writing to you from a resident's perspective as well as an expert perspective

As an expert in the developmental sector and a behaviour analyst, I do understand the need to support the homeless people and I consider that they are victims of unforeseen circumstances, and that we are all responsible to provide support in different ways.

From my experience working with this vulnerable population, and from the true stories that I personally heard from women living in these shelters, I know very well that residents of these shelters continue to be victimized and abused from their perpetrators who use coercion and threats to keep them under their control. To be more explicit, drug dealers and human trafficking networks continue their business as usual using the vulnerable people as their agents. Most of the time, this means that perpetrators frequent the areas of these shelters to visit their agents or to observe their activities. Moreover, substance use continues to happen inside those hubs, and as a result, persons under the effect of these drugs going in and out of these hubs engage in behaviours that pose a safety risk to the people around them such as vandalism, theft, crime, assault and so on. Let alone the used needles and substances that will be left in the neighborhood. The hub is a short walking distance from the walking trails and parks in the FoxHollow area, where we send our children to play.

As a resident and a mother of 3 children, I am extremely concerned about the safety of my family if this hub is operating in our neighborhood, I am honestly very surprised about the choice of this location, and can't find a justification for this choice.

Did the council members take into consideration that there is a center for special needs (TVCC), a music school (Long and Mcquade), a toy store (Mastermind toys) and other medical and family businesses adjacent to the hub location?

As a resident who frequents most of the businesses in this block, I would definitely refrain from doing any business around that hub.

How such a decision could pass without consulting with the residents and businesses in the neighborhood? The speed in which this project is happening poses too many question marks to us and we feel that our safety and wellbeing have been dismissed.

We always used to get letters from the city of London whenever there was a neighborhood improvement project in the area (park, walking trail, infra-structure....) asking for our input and special requests, which we have always admired. How come we were never consulted regarding such a sensitive issue? Did the council members think about the impact of this hub on the surrounding businesses? on the safety of residents?

Like many of the families around us, we sought this neighborhood specifically because it was considered one of the safest for families, we invested all our savings to buy our dream house here, and now chances are that our property will be devalued with this project being implemented. Moreover, when we first came to Canada 10 years ago, we chose London because we heard that it is safe and family oriented. We strongly oppose this project and we hope that the city councilors reconsider this decision.

We anticipate a reply and further explanations about what is going on

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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