

From: Pamela Block
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless hubs

I consent to having my letter shared at the council meeting.

To the city council,

As a social scientist with postdoctoral training in alcohol and addiction studies, I support the evidence-based plans to provide facilities to unhoused people in London. I support the vision and participatory nature of this planning process. I support the creation of housing to support woman and couples with children in Northwest London near Fanshaw and Wonderland near my home. I hope the city will be transparent about planning that involves large injections of money into privately owned buildings for short term facilities. I would like to know there is a plan for short and long term wrap around supports for people needing to use these facilities. I have noticed a great deal of NIMBY panic based in prejudice and misinformation but also some astute questions about use of resources and short and long term consequences of creating these supports. To continue the participatory nature of this process please create advisory boards that include local community members as well as experts in this field. All stakeholders should be represented in a balanced way moving forward. I am very disturbed at the idea that financially and politically privileged people might have the power to bar important services to marginalized people in our community through bullying and fear tactics. At the same time there needs to be transparency and evidence of thoughtful long range planning in these new hubs or the whole city-wide plan is at risk.

Sincerely,
Pamela Block Ph.D.