

To London City Council:

I wish to give consent for this letter to appear on the public agenda of your Special Meeting on October 5, 2023. My address and phone number below are for verification purposes only and can be removed from the published version. The views expressed here are strictly my own as a resident.

I was born in London and I later returned to study, live, and work for nearly my entire adult life. In that time, London has faced challenges before. However, today's challenges are unprecedented and quite frankly, heartbreaking. These challenges are not solely of London's making. Yet, as a city we must face them together. Assigning "blame" is not particularly helpful exercise, as tempting as it might be to point fingers at other levels of government who have a responsibility towards their citizens.

The sad reality of today's society is a system where just one workplace injury, one disability, one mishap, one ill-advised prescription, one job loss, one toxic relationship, or one relationship breakdown can launch anyone on a path to losing a place to call home. It can happen fast; none of us realize our own family may be just one step away from complete disaster.

We must think about how we can act collectively as Londoners for the welfare of all Londoners. Consider how we would want to be treated should we ever find ourselves in dire need and use that as a guiding philosophy for serving others. What kind of environment and what kind of services would we need, or our children need, to get back on our feet? I'm dismayed at some of the language I've read online: these are not facilities to securely "lock" people away, rather, we need to *connect* people with nearby educational opportunities, potential employers, and other services.

In writing this letter, I wish to express support for London's Health and Homelessness Hubs Implementation Plan. From what I have seen, these first three hubs are a significant, positive step forward. The agencies named in this initial phase have established track records in our community. Led by responsive fellow Londoners who know the neighbourhoods of London well.

I appreciate that the City sought feedback and is holding this special meeting. I appreciate the thought put in so far and the work still to come on this long journey ahead. Like any plan, I'm sure this one isn't "perfect." As much as we must refine plans, we cannot wait for perfection. We do need a plan that is thoughtful and caring; that is what this plan is.

Regards,  
Darryl

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