

From: Uma Maheswari Mariappan
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 9:47 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Cc: Rahman, Corrine <crahman@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to homeless hub in London

To all council members,

First of all, I do not oppose the helping the homeless population in the city. We all want the city to have clean streets and good neighbourhoods. But **I STRONGLY OPPOSE the plan to open hubs across London** while everyone witnessing what is happening around the shelters in downtown on daily basis. Homeless issue can be addressed only when the homeless person wants to get out of the situation. **Without the cooperation from homeless population any amount of community engagement and inclusion will not solve the problem.**

Instead of opening 15 hub across London for 2000 people, why don't 15 council member set up a individual team to talk directly to the individuals to understand what they are actually looking for?

Here are my concerns with opening the homeless hub across London.

1. **The current shelters are located around police station. But the drug usage and crime couldn't be stopped all the time.** How would you expect the entire London community to deal with drugs and crime on a daily basis. While high value business couldn't thrive in downtown due to homeless issue, how can the council expect the individual home to thrive in the city,. **If an issue couldn't be resolved when it is contained to a location how did the council arrived at a solution to spread across the city will solve it.**
2. As deputy mayor acknowledged in the news article that **homeless people from other cities are sent to London** due to safe injection site and other resources available, In this case if **hubs are opened across the city are we going to get more people ? If more people means we are going to open hubs in every corner of the city?**
3. Once all the hubs are opened, **do the police and emergency services are going to run all over the city to address the emergency calls and issues in and around the hubs.** Will they have resources and time to handle the London residents problem? Are we going to put more pressure on them?

Concerns regarding **705 Fanshawe park road** west location proposal.

1. It would easily take 20 minutes to drive to Victoria hospital in the early morning in own transportation. why would identify a **location far from all the necessary services** the people in the hub would be accessing.

2. The **traffic the Wonderland and Fanshawe road** already creating heavy congestion during peak hours. Along with this presence of emergency vehicles & police vehicle it is going to be chaos for the residents to travel in the city.

3. There are **no emergency services** near this location .

4. Though there could be safe drug policy inside the wall of the hubs, but how the city is going to handle the **drugs usage outside of the hub.**

5. There are **toystore, TVCC for autism kids next door to this location.**

6. There are **parks and trails** near by. Which I am afraid will be used for encampments and usage of needles and drugs.

7. Why would **City do an emergency rezoning** when the site itself not identified as the emergency services zone? Why is the city is rushing to rezoning this location?

8. Why **evicting the current motel residents** to house homeless ?

Last but not least, while the average house hold income for Londoners with children (family of 4)is less than 50k, Why would city open hubs where operating cost for individual is around 80k to 110K ?

I consent to include my email in public council agenda.

Regards

Uma