

From: **Anna D.V**

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Homelessness Hub at 705 Fanshawe Park Road

To: council@london.ca, "mayor@london.ca" <mayor@london.ca>, slehman@london.ca, hmcaster@london.ca, slewis@london.ca, strosow@london.ca, "ahopkins@london.ca" <ahopkins@london.ca>, sfranke@london.ca, epeloz@london.ca, dferreira@london.ca, craham@london.ca

City of London

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Attention: All City Councillors

Good evening Councillors,

I'm writing to you in regards to the proposed homeless hub on 705 Fanshawe Park Rd. W.

After years of deciding whether to live in London or move to Toronto. We decided as a family to plant our roots here. Unlike bigger cities, London was safe. When choosing a neighbourhood to settle in we loved the foxfield area. In 12 years I have owned 2 houses in the same subdivision. My grandchildren attend a great school, have wonderful friends in the neighbourhood and the community of foxfield is a great place to live.

As a family of 5 and the current economic situation it is not easy to just pick up and leave. I have worked my whole life and have been a productive member of society to see everything that I have worked for be ruined by a subdivision I know longer will feel safe in. Lately We don't feel safe driving with the windows down in the area as every other intersection there is someone begging for money impeding traffic and hastling others while driving to work. Surely there will be more of this. Not to mention the recent break ins of vehicles, theft and broad daylight shootings, statistically this is bound to get worse. Police response is lacking, I'm sure there will be more police response when someone chooses to OD from whatever illegal illicit drug they can do there then the average homeowner that has their vehicle or house broken in too.

In some parts of town you can't even use a washroom without asking someone to unlock it because of drug use and vandalism. Do you want this to happen here with all the new businesses opening near the hub? Is this what they will have to resort to? Do you think it's fair to the local businesses owners that weren't told about this prior to signing a lease this is people's livelihood.

I asked you to reconsider this hub placement and listen to the community that it will affect.

I am not going to speak for everyone but it seems like the majority of people in the community want the homeless to be helped and want a roof over their head and a warm place to sleep at night but is a subdivision with small children and families the appropriate place for housing?

I ask you Josh Morgan if you still lived in the neighbourhood would you want this for your family.

Would you want your hard earned money to be spent on a 20 person hub that is going to cost approximately \$5.2 million for the initial two-year term.

Do you know how many lives you can change with 5.2 million dollars?

I ask you and the members of council to explain this cost as contributing members of society. Do I not have a right to know? As tax paying citizens do we not have any rights. The mere fact this was put in the media before it was addressed with the community is disgusting.

Most recently there was a huge community debate on fireworks within the city. You mean to tell me that "fireworks" were a bigger topic of discussion then homeless hubs in a residential area?

To put a skating rink in a neighbourhood, a city park or splash pad everyone has the opportunity to vote or be heard but a decision like this gets swept under the table.

I don't make 100 000 a year and can support a family of 5. How can the city of London justify spending this much money to help 20 people.

I am not a financial advisor but surely I can find a way to support more people in this community than 20 with that amount of money.

Has the city considered other areas of London that have already have structured buildings to house people, maybe buildings that can house more as well?

Can you explain the reasoning behind the location choice? Can you tell me why this is a good choice for people that are homeless, mentally ill or have addiction issues?

Do I teach my grand kids that this is normal? Do I tell them it is ok to become addicted to drugs because the city will just put you up in a nice neighbourhood and let you drugs in a "safe" place? While the rest of society has to suffer all while making less then the room and board you are spending for one person

Or do we teach our kids there are consequences to actions? And choices made in life and the wrong ones could lead to different circumstances.

Do you think it's right? I've worked my whole life and made choices in my life to make it where I am to know that in a year from now I can kiss the value of my house goodbye and my retirement.

Will you be there to assist me?

Do you know what will happen to this community and local businesses that surround it. Those businesses support London. They Will be gone due to a decision made by the "higher ups" so you can say see we helped 20 people.

Listen to the people, listen to the concerns, listen to the community. They have supported and put their trust in you over the years, please don't make us regret the decision we made on choosing you.

If I haven't made it clear in my email I am opposed to this proposal.

I give my consent to have this letter shared at the Council meeting.

Respectfully,

Anna D. V