

From: Branko Vojnovic

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 11:04 PM

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Cc: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Homeless Hub - No Hub at 705 Fanshawe Park Road

Dear Councilors,

I provide consent that my letter be openly discussed on the Public Agenda. I am opposed to the proposed hub location at 705 Fanshawe Park Road. While there are a number of reasons this particular hub does not meet the guidelines for hub locations set out in London's Health And Homelessness Response: Proposed Hubs Implementation Plan, July 2023, today I am writing you with concern over the forced closing of The Black Pearl Pub, a long-term, locally-owned business and the forcing residents out of the residents of the Light House Inn and the response I received from the Mayors office, receiving a podcast with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

1) A number of individuals and their families will lose their homes and many may end up on the streets. The proposed site at the motel is a long term home for people who cannot find affordable housing for their particular situations. This includes residents who have lived at this location from years to a decade. I personally know 4 people living there that are hard working people and are currently scared because they may end up homeless because of the proposed plans. Are the organizations providing the funding aware that your proposed site will leave individuals and families potentially homeless are you as Councilors aware of this, please visit the site and see there are hard working people living there.

2)The Black Pearl Pub faces the road at the proposed location. Behind the pub is a motel. The following information has been verified to be factual after consultation with the business owners at this location.

The facts are as follows:

- The placement of a hub at this location with force the closure of The Black Pearl Pub and The Lighthouse Inn.
- The Black Pearl Pub rents the space and, therefore, will receive zero compensation for their forced closure. They will be forced to leave behind a business they dedicated their lives to building.
- The Black Pearl Pub will not be able to reopen in a different location as it would not be financially feasible for them to do so.
- 11 employees (including 6 families and their children) will be unemployed and without an income should the pub close. This includes children of these employees.

As for the podcast response I received from the Mayors office, I had increased concerns of what the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had to say:

3) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor said this current proposed plan may not work and that we may have to pull this idea but we have no other options to consider. Further, openly stating that a past attempt by building the 200 bed in downtown London has failed, which we clearly see has had a direct impact to the location. This does not provide any comfort for me, the safety of my children and the thousands of children who pass by there everyday to get to 3 schools in the proximity and a toy store meters away.

4) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's continuous focus on removing individuals off the streets; however, failing to note that this proposed site would leave hard working individuals on the street, refer to point 1 and result in a lose of jobs point 2.

5) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor continuously criticize us the residents who oppose the proposed site calling us "hatemongers" and spreading "dis-information". Further in an article released by LFPRESS.COM on September 30 2023 the Mayor criticizes the people opposed to the site. This is disappointing to have a Mayor criticize people for their views. During the Podcast, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor go to say they know the people in the community and the people will support it. In fact, many residents even today don't know of the proposition and as they find out about it there is a significant opposition to it. The Mayor disregards our views and criticizes us if we don't agree with his opinion. There have been many online petitions going on and while they don't mean much, I would like to show that within a few days more than 450 individuals oppose this and these are only a few individuals who know of the issue and petition.

In conclusion, bidders of the RFP have not met the criteria set by your own administration, the Proposal has gone against its own guidelines (zoning, residential, school proximity), the Proposal has changed many times (again stated by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the podcast response). This entire initiative has been plagued with integrity and due process issues and the Mayors response to individuals such as myself is one of criticism and disappointment for my views. If your own guidelines, RFPs and rules have been bent so much, I urge you to remove 705 Fanshawe Park Road from the locations, do an appropriate assessment, which includes involving residents, as its clear that all other parts of this proposal can be change if needs to be.

Councilors, I trust that you can see that a hub at this location will cost others both financially, physically, and emotionally. These are people, too. People with a need for income, people with a need for affordable housing, parents who are working hard to put food on the table for their children. I ask that you protect the business owners, families and residents that are blameless casualties of this situation.

I ask that you please share this letter with council.

Thank you,

Branko Vojnovic, CPA, CA, MA