

From: Cedric Richards

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 11:17 PM

To: council@london.ca; Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; Ask City <askcity@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] re: Oct 5, 2023 Council Meeting, Item 6.1

Hello all,

I would like this placed on the agenda for the October 5, 2023 Council meeting, under item 6.1.

Although City Council and SPPC have the same amount of members (the entire city council), I nevertheless urge council to vote yes to implementing the first set of homeless hubs. We need to try something new instead of going with the status quo and wondering why we face the problems we're facing.

The rhetoric coming out of Northwest London has been hurtful and unhelpful. There have been appeals to emotion where residents are invoking "families, children, businesses, residential neighborhoods, people with special needs", and so on. As if we in the east end don't have these things? And we have been thanklessly asked to care for the city's most vulnerable?

The discourse in this city has shown to me that there are two Londons. I live in the one London that, as stated above, is always called on to provide solutions to end homelessness in many material ways. The other London is where I grew up. I went to high school 1.8 kilometers from the proposed hub. It's in that London, in my experience, where they have reaped the "reward" of washing their hands of the effects of poverty.

Based on civic debates over the last several years, it seems as though in the London I live in, municipal services are something that is done *for* the people. In the other London, municipal services are something that is done *to* people.

Our hands get dirty, their hands stay Instagram aesthetic-friendly, and almost nobody cares.

Should we be the Forest City, or a Tale of Two Cities?

Please vote yes to approve the hubs.

Thank you,

Cedric Richards
London, ON N5Z 4Z6