

**From:** Karen Pennesi

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023 11:10 AM

**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>; Rahman, Corrine <crahman@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] support for homeless hub in ward 7

Dear Members of City Council,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Homeless Hub strategy the city is adopting. As a Ward 7 resident, I think the Hub at 705 Fanshawe Park Road West is a good idea. It gets the people who need it away from the downtown area, where they are vulnerable to a number of risks. Putting the hubs in neighbourhoods out of the downtown core also acknowledges that the people they will serve come from all over London. It can be any one of us or our family members who may find ourselves in need of housing and the related supports.

Having multiple services in one location where the people live is beneficial because when people are already going through so much in those times of transition in their lives, it can be extra difficult to arrange transportation and appointments. Sometimes just figuring out where to go is too much. It can also facilitate sharing information and a sense of community among the population using the services.

I am not concerned that having a Hub in our neighbourhood will increase crime. We already have break-ins so we can't blame homeless people for that.

Homeless hubs cannot be the only solution. In some cases, transferring cash directly would do more good. But in the cases of the people needing the hubs, they are facing multiple problems and a single cash transfer would not be appropriate. They need a more global approach and the hubs can help if they are organized and run effectively. I especially would like to see spots dedicated for youth because they really need more than just a bed in a shelter.

I urge City Council to approve the Homeless Hub at 705 Fanshawe Park Road West and in the other locations. Morally and financially, it's the right thing to do.

I give consent for this letter to appear on the public agenda.

Sincerely,

Karen Pennesi  
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