From: Amanda Grzyb

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 11:36 PM **To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for the HUBS plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I give permission for this letter to be included on the public agenda.

I'm writing to express my strong support for the HUBS plan, which offers an innovative solution to the housing and homelessness crisis in our city. I realize that city councillors are facing some opposition to the plan, particularly by residents of higher income neighbourhoods. I urge council to remain steadfast in their decision to operationalize the HUBS and to continue to listen to the advice of community experts on homelessness.

City Council is entrusted to represent the interests *everyone* in London, including those who are experiencing homelessness. One could argue that councillors have an even greater obligation to the people in our community who are the most vulnerable. The HUBS plan offers an approach to our homelessness crisis centred on dignity, care, respect, and humanity. The whole community approach to homelessness will end the ghettoization and warehousing of people experiencing homelessness. It will integrate people experiencing housing instability into our wider communities and help to create the social safety net they so desperately need.

If we use history as a guide, we can see that the most morally right decisions – for example, abolishing slavery or enabling women to vote – were not always supported by the majority of people at the time. Prejudice, discrimination, and fear can often cloud people's judgement and understanding. This week, city councillors have the opportunity to make the morally right choice on the HUBS plan.

It's also important to recognize that a disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness in London are Indigenous. Housing precarity is related to the legacy of violence and trauma of the residential schools and other forms of genocide against Indigenous people. The HUBS plan can be one important way for our community to move towards reconciliation.

Thanks for your attention and I look forward to seeing the HUBS pland in action and supporting the city's holistic efforts to end the local homelessness crisis.

Amanda Grzyb

Amanda Grzyb, Ph.D. (she/her) Professor of Information and Media Studies University of Western Ontario FIMS, FNB 2050, London ON N6A 5B9

Project Director Surviving Memory in Postwar El Salvador www.elsalvadormemory.org

Past Chair, Board of Directors
Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London
717 Dundas St, London ON N5W 2Z5
http://unityproject.ca