

**Nicholas Vrbos**

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May 5, 2024

Subject: Urgent Request for Funding Restoration: London Coffee House Nutrition Program

Dear London City Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent funding cut to the Nutrition Program at the London Coffee House. As a concerned member of the community, I urge the City Council to reconsider this decision and provide the necessary funding to support this vital program.

The Nutrition Program at the London Coffee House plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of underhoused individuals in our community. It not only provides nutritious meals but also serves as a beacon of hope and support for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Many individuals rely on this program as their primary source of sustenance, and the impact of its closure would be devastating.

The consequences of losing this program extend beyond mere inconvenience. Without the Nutrition Program, participants will have nowhere to go for sustenance, support, and community engagement. This could lead to increased strain on existing social services, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies as individuals seek alternative means of meeting their basic needs. Increased calls to emergency services and police could result from the lack of structured support and resources provided by the London Coffee House.

Considering these potential consequences, I urge the City Council to provide funding to cover the shortfall in afternoon programming and staff at the London Coffee House, in addition to restoring funding to the Nutrition Program. By doing so, we can ensure that essential services are maintained, and that the needs of underhoused individuals are adequately met, thereby alleviating the strain on existing social services, and preventing potential increases in emergency calls.

It is imperative that we prioritize the well-being of all members of our community, especially those who are most vulnerable. Investing in programs like the Nutrition Program and supporting afternoon programming and staff at the London Coffee House is not only the compassionate thing to do but also the prudent thing to do from a social and economic standpoint. This program lines up with the principles of the City of London's Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness and by not restoring the funding, you will be exacerbating the existing crisis of homelessness in London.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the City Council to restore funding to the Nutrition Program and provide additional funding to cover the shortfall in afternoon programming and staff at the London Coffee House. By doing so, we can ensure that this valuable resource continues to serve those in need and uphold the principles of compassion and inclusivity that define our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your response and working together to address the needs of underhoused individuals in our city.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Vrbos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas Vrbos