



300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA

March 24, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I was surprised to hear that the significant change in use of the recent London Cares funding allocation did not require approval by Council.

On the February 6, 2024 SPPC Agenda item 2.2, Council was asked to approve 2 year single source procurements with a list of Service Providers to support “the need to maintain a consistent level of existing services while a new system begins to scale up.” Some of the key considerations were “the potential for service disruptions” and concern “that funding is not stable and predictable enough” and “to have a more transparent funding model in place.”

The recommendation asked Council to approve contracts with Service Providers “as outlined as attached as Schedule 1 of the report”.

Schedule 1 listed the Agency-Emergency Shelter System as London Cares Homeless Response Services - Resting Space (15 Beds) or Housing Supports for a total program cost of \$1,335,131 in 2024/2025 and \$1,372,449 in 2025/2026.

The cost per bed for this program was significantly out of line with the other Service Providers.

The Salvation Army Centre of Hope (107 beds)	\$2,147 /bed/month
The Salvation Army Centre of Hope (31 beds)	\$1,395 /bed/month
Mission Services -Rotholme (40 beds)	\$2,813 /bed/month
Mission Services - Men’s Mission (75 beds)	\$3,014 /bed/month
Unity Project (40 beds)	\$3,333 /bed/month
Youth Opportunities Unlimited (30 beds)	\$3,778 /bed/month
London Cares - Resting Spaces (15 beds)	\$7,417 /bed/month

with additional administration request it is \$8,750/bed/month

When asked on the Council floor, Civic Administration said that the reason for the extra cost was staffing. When asked to confirm the location of the London Cares (15 beds) in a February 5 email, the response was “448 Horton St is the current address and what was included in the budget submission.”

Council was asked to approve a drawdown from the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve in the amount of \$4,599,855 to fund this list of programs and Service Providers in order to maintain existing services.

Council approved on February 13, 2024..

On March 19, 2024 there was a Media Release stating “The City of London is using \$2.7 million over the next two years of Council-approved funding dedicated to London Cares Homeless Response Services (London Cares) to add 24 new highly supportive housing units at the House of Hope established in the fall of 2023. The initiative will convert 15



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temporary resting space beds at 448 Horton Street to 24 furnished highly supportive housing units at 362 Dundas Street.”

The public has a high expectation of transparency and accountability regarding the funding allocated to address the homeless/addiction crisis facing our city and for this reason, I am recommending the following Draft Motion:

That Civic Administration be DIRECTED to report back at a future meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee with:

- a) the rationale for the switch from 15 temporary resting space beds at 448 Horton Street to 24 furnished highly supportive housing units at 362 Dundas Street
- b) the cost breakdowns for this new program (to update Schedule 1) and/or a Draft Operating Budget (per the new Highly Supportive Housing Plan)
- c) recommendations to ensure that “Council-approved” funding arrangements are clear and accountable to specific outcomes.
- d) expectations for sources of funding for future Highly Supportive Housing units and a list other “conversions” being considered

Sincerely,

Susan Stevenson
Councillor, Ward 4