

## RE: Whole of Community Response: Encampment Strategy

To our City of London Council,

Thank you for your dedication to the Whole of Community Response to addressing the housing deprivation crisis on our streets. You have continued important conversations about how a community can work together in new ways through innovative, evidence-based and reality-based discussions about where we are at as a city.

As Co-Chair of the Hubs Implementation Table, we wanted to express our staunch support for the plan before you today. This entire response is based on human rights and equity. The Encampment Strategy is the final piece of embedding this philosophy through the continuum of supports envisioned within the Whole of Community Response. Encampments are a reality on our streets. The suffering that comes when people are forced to sleep outside without access to their human rights, is not just a reality, it is a killer. We need Londoners to have access to their basic human rights now so they can live and have an opportunity to thrive in our community.

The Hubs Implementation Plan provides a roadmap to innovative spaces to support people with the highest level of needs on our street. This plan, which council passed last year, stands to be further strengthened by the supports proposed in the Encampment Implementation Strategy. With an appropriately scaled and resourced response, people stand to enter the Hubs system in a greater state of health, wellbeing and dignity than what is available today. As spaces designed to enable the next steps toward housing, this means that people may arrive to Hubs more ready than ever to continue on that journey toward housing, whether that be in private market, rent-geared-to-income, supportive, highly supportive or otherwise.

London continues to be a leader in how it supports its community. We are regularly contacted by other cities interested in bringing greater vitality to their most marginalized community members. This plan presents such an opportunity to further exemplify this leadership. We stand to be amongst the first communities to have a supported continuum of sheltering and housing options all the way from the streets to permanent residences.

Nothing is scarier than facing what is real and the suffering on our streets could not be more real. We would like to thank our Colleagues at the City, the Encampment Implementation table and Greg & Chantelle for their bravery in tackling one of our greatest challenges head on. We look forward to the opportunity our Hubs partners have, current and future, to welcome people through their doors that have had access to their rights, once again, or finally.

Sincerely,



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Health & Homelessness Whole of Community Response: Hub Implementation  
Table Co-Chair  
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