

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the homeless encampment across the street from my home in McCormick Park.

While I deeply empathize with the individuals living in the park and understand the dire need for shelter, I believe that the funds currently being allocated for porta-potties and food (for only eleven months) should be redirected toward more permanent solutions, such as roofed shelters, reopening mental health institutions, low-income rehab facilities, or dorm-style apartments.

Though my heart goes out to those enduring such harsh conditions, I am extremely worried about the safety of my family and my neighbors. The presence of an encampment often leads to an increase in crime, including theft, trespassing, vandalism, and potentially violence. I am especially concerned for the elderly and children in our neighborhood. With a school just a few blocks away, the safety of our children is at risk. How can parents feel safe allowing their kids to walk to school?

Relocating is no longer a viable option, as our property values are likely to decrease. Potential buyers will likely avoid purchasing homes in an area with such concerns about safety, cleanliness, and overall quality of life.

I also have concerns about the safety and well-being of our children being exposed to violence and public drug use. What steps are being taken to address these issues? Additionally, how will the city manage the clutter and dirt in the area and prevent the spread of rodents and insects into our homes?

Lastly, if someone's safety or property is negatively impacted by the presence of this encampment in our neighborhood, is the city liable for any damages?

What will happen to these funds if Doug Ford's bill to crack down on public use of illegal drugs is passed and the homeless are pushed out of the park?

Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns.

Please place my comments on the Added Agenda for Monday's CPSC meeting. I give my permission to place my email on the public agenda under Agenda item 2.9 Provision of Outdoor Basic Needs.

Sincerely,
Alexis Todd