

**Mayor and Members of City Council**

City of London

London, ON

March 25, 2025

**Subject: Letter of Support for Allocation of Funds for Drop-In Service**

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Downtown London, we would like to express our support for the allocation of funds to provide this essential drop-in service. We recognize the critical role that such services play in supporting vulnerable individuals in our community and commend the City for prioritizing this initiative.

However, it is imperative that the placement of this service aligns with previous Council decisions and is situated in a location with the appropriate zoning in place. Strategic placement will ensure the success of the program while maintaining a balanced approach to community planning, business operations, and public safety.

Many commercial and residential property owners downtown have reported to us that their security costs range anywhere from \$100,000 to over \$1,000,000 per year, with some saying they have had to at least double their costs over the last few years. We commend the City for its continued support of businesses and ask that the costs related to the services that drop-in centres provide not be offloaded to business owners. Our members and our BIA cannot afford to cover these ever-increasing costs, which have had a significant impact on our economy and our ability to fill vacancies in the core area. These ongoing impacts further erode trust, civic pride, and our ability to attract residents, visitors, and future investment downtown.

We are acutely aware of the tremendous amount of great work that the City and many organizations in our community are doing to support London's most vulnerable population. Downtown London and our members have immense compassion for our at-risk community. We remain committed to working collaboratively to support solutions that serve both our businesses and those in need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your leadership and ongoing efforts to strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Downtown London Board of Directors