

4TH REPORT OF THE
TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE

Meeting held on November 13, 2013, commencing at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Brown (Chair), Mayor J.F. Fontana, Councillors N. Branscombe, J.P. Bryant and J.B. Swan and J. Carter, A. Eftekharpour, T. Frost, J. Goodwin, A. Gourley and D. Pellarin and C. Saunders (City Clerk).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor H.L. Usher and B. Polhill and J.P. Barber, H. Connell, T. Cowan, B. Duncan, O. Katolyk, D. Lebold, G. Matthews, D. O'Brien, M. Ribera, B. Shea, M. Tomazincic, P. White.

REGRETS: J. Brenes Reyes, S. Grindrod, G. Hopcroft and E. Sims.

I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

Project Learn

1. (1) That, the following actions be taken regarding the current practices being undertaken in dealing with the conduct of students attending local post-secondary institutions:
 - a) the questions and concerns raised at the Public Participation Meeting held on November 13, 2013, regarding the above-noted matter, BE REFERRED to the Civic Administration for review and consideration, in consultation with community partners, including, but not limited to, the London Police Services, Fanshawe College and Western University, to report back at a future meeting of the Town and Gown Committee, providing responses to the concerns and questions and recommending any suggested changes that could be undertaken to better educate the community regarding municipal by-laws and Project Learn and how to better engage the student population;
 - b) a Public Participation Meeting before the Town and Gown Committee BE HELD to provide a further opportunity to dialogue with the community regarding Project Learn;
 - c) an Information Workshop BE HELD at a future meeting of the Town and Gown Committee to permit a more informal forum for further discussion regarding concerns related to Project Learn;
 - d) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to find a means to inform the public of future Town and Gown Committee meetings; and,
 - e) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to prepare an information binder for Members of the Town and Gown Committee containing by-laws, policies and processes related to dealing with the conduct of students attending local post-secondary institutions;

it being noted that the Town and Gown Committee reviewed and received the following communications:

- the attached presentation from the Manager Licensing & Municipal Law Enforcement;
- the attached communications from D. Schaefer, 398 Chambers Place;
- the attached communication from G. Parker, Executive Director, Institute of Canadian Justice; and,
- the attached communication from D. Bentley, Distinguished University Professor, and C.F. Klinck, Professor in Canadian Literature.

it being pointed out that at the public participation meeting associated with this matter, the following individuals made oral submissions in connection therewith:

- Adam Gourley, President, Fanshawe Student Union – see attached presentation.

- Amir Eftekharpour, Vice-President, University of Western Ontario Students Council – indicating that the community, the students, the Police and City officials need to come together to address the issues that have arisen the last few years; advising that students have concerns on how the previous Project Learn functioned; noting that many of these issues have been resolved recently; indicating that with the zero tolerance, students are immediately ticketed; noting that neighbours are treated differently; and, advising that we need to come together as a community.
- Renald Richer, 1509 Ryersie Road – expressing concern with the number of break ins over the last year in his neighbourhood; and, enquiring as to whether or not resources are allocated to areas to patrol when there are frequent break ins.
- John Warner, 131 Ann Street – indicating that, during the school year, it is a different neighbourhood; advising that his family has lived here for 58 years; indicating that there is a lack of enforcement in the area; and, advising that it is no longer a family neighbourhood.
- Kevin Watts, 152 Broughdale Avenue – advising that he and his two roommates are \$1,700 in debt due to Project Learn; indicating that he is in his second year at Western and is an honours student; advising that negativity breeds negativity; indicating that, at the Queen’s University homecoming, the Police kept the students on their respective properties without handing out multiple tickets; and, advising that Project Learn does not take into account well-rounded, educated students.
- Pauline House, Huron Heights – advising that she has seen a vast improvement since zero tolerance was implemented; indicating that warnings do not work; expressing appreciation for the police presence in her neighbourhood; understanding the students frustration; explaining that the students are living in residential areas where the residents are looking for peace and quiet; and, advising that it does not matter if it is a student or an adult, if they are making too much noise, she would call the police regardless.
- John Erb, 20 Craig Street – advising that he has recently moved to London from Toronto; indicating that, except for a couple of incidents, the students in London are exceptional people; noting that the students represent almost 10% of London’s population; indicating that the students are under more pressure than any other generation; advising that students need to know they are part of the community, not an enemy of the community; and, enquiring where the zoning is that allows young people a place to let off steam.
- Gerald Parker, Executive Director, Institute of Canadian Justice – indicating that it takes a village to raise a child; advising that when you discipline children, do not go to the extreme; and recommending that the City starts listening to the community.
- George Lightfoot, 170 St. Bee’s Close – see [attached](#) presentation.
- Kyle Parker - see [attached](#) presentation.
- Eugene DiTrollo, 14 St. George Street – enquiring as to what the Student Councils and/or Administration are doing on campus to promote education between students and the community and how the students can more peacefully fit into a neighbourhood.
- Anne Marie Valastro, 133 John Street – expressing appreciation to the London Police Chief relating to Project Learn; advising that she has experienced a lot of vandalism; requesting that students not be dealt with any differently than anyone else; indicating that she has not seen any public outreach in her neighbourhood by the students; and, recommending that there be neighbourhood captains to establish a relationship between students and the neighbours.
- Paul Beechey, 1033 Waterloo Street – advising that he has resided in his neighbourhood for 20 years; indicating that Project Learn and zero tolerance works because it gets people’s attention; advising that Western University residence has rules and regulations and there are not parties in the University residences; enquiring as to the number of fines levied over the years to Western University students, Fanshawe College students and non-students; enquiring as to the cost to Police Services of patrolling the student areas; and enquiring as to whether or not Fanshawe College or the University of Western Ontario provide funding to the London Police Service to patrol parties.

- Charles Joles, 1022 Waterloo Street – indicating that the only concerns that should be considered are the ones of the residents that are affected by this outrageous behaviour; and, advising that students should be acting like adults.
- Nico DiPlacido, 177 Sherwood Avenue – advising that he and his roommates held a soiree, with the proceeds going to charity, last year; advising that, at the soiree, they did receive a noise complaint and received a ticket for \$1,200.00; indicating that they have an excellent rapport with the London Police Service; noting that they have experienced a break in at their residence; advising that he was not provided with any warning before he received the ticket; indicating that, if he had had a warning, and was advised that if the Police came back a second time he would receive a ticket, he would have shut the party down; and, advising that they do outreach to their neighbours.
- Kirosh Digani, 7 St. George Street – advising that this issue should be dealt with in a more open-minded manner; advising that there should be opportunities for learning rather than zero tolerance; indicating that they have had parties and have checked with the neighbours to ensure that it did not bother them; and, indicating that zero tolerance antagonizes the students.
- Julie Flesh, 344 Harvard Street – indicating that she does not feel safe walking at night; advising that her car has been broken into three times in eight months; indicating that a friend was injured when a party was shut down and a door was kicked in; and, request that the Project Learn program be amended to be more educational and to assist students in acting like adults; and, advising that zero tolerance has a negative impact on students.
- Jean Marc Metrailler, 462 Maitland Street – advising that he lives in a residential community, away from the students; encouraging the Committee to find other areas of the City for students to live in, outside of the student ghetto's, such as Old East London; indicating that there could be express bus service for students in these areas; and, advising that it may help the area.
- Pat Gianoni, Owner, G's Pizza & Panini – advising that he is in the heart of Richmond Row and is surrounded by noise from neighbouring restaurants and bars; and, expressing concern with the activities of the London Police Services.
- Marie Blosch, 43 Mayfair Drive – advising that the programs that have been implemented are working in their community; indicating that Project Learn is not a punishment and is required; and, indicating that landlords and real estate agents are missing from this meeting.
- Coraline Knight, 332 Richmond Street – indicating that when tickets are given with no warning, it can ruin a person's life; advising that he does not see the problem with couches on lawns, it is the same as having a nice patio set; noting that some people even had couches on their roofs.
- Owen McGinnis, 7 St. George Street – advising that he was approached by a Police Officer when he was walking down the street; indicating that during his discussion with the Police Officer, he accidentally dropped his water bottle, picked it up and was given a littering ticket.
- Jack Litchfield, 20 Gower Street – expressing appreciation to the London Police Service for their quick response to the media backlash on Project Learn; indicating that it is difficult for students, who are living away from home for the first time, to receive no warning, just a ticket, and grow as adults; indicating that the student code of conduct should not be imposed on their personal lives; and, advising that the City should be following its policies to encourage students to remain in London after they graduate.
- Richard Zukat, 1125 Western Road – expressing appreciation to the London Police Services for scaling Project Learn back; advising that Project Learn makes him feel like a second class citizen; enquiring as to what is being done to protect the safety of the students; and, also enquiring as to what engagement strategies can be implemented.
- Brian Bellman, 116 Mill Street – advising that Project Learn creates the divide between students and area residents; and, recognizing that there are problems with students, but Project Learn is not the answer.
- Oliver Hobson, 45 Evergreen Avenue – indicating that the Provincial laws have changed to allow the Police to use tasers; and, recommending that the London Police Services engage the Ombudsman to discuss other options than tasers.

- Matt Helfin, 567 Waterloo Street – indicating that students have a right to reside in the neighbourhoods they currently reside in; indicating that there is a way to address the competing interests between the students and the area residents and find a solution for everyone; advising that the best outcome is to find a solution for everyone; advising that what is being discussed is a community problem; advising that students are a valuable part of the community; and, expressing any support away from zero tolerance and promote education.
- Sam Trosow, 43 Mayfair Drive – advising that he and area residents have been trying for years to improve the housing structures; indicating that they are now at the breaking point; advising that real estate agents are constantly trying to get them to sell their house; indicating that there are enforcement issues; advising that there is something wrong with the housing market; indicating that there are privacy issues for the students; enquiring how to get more transparency on how the real estate market and rental market operates; and, advising that the general public should be allowed to find out who the landlord is whom owns the problem property.
- Cathy Cave, 220 St. George Street – see attached submission.
- Edgar Allen Smuck, 928 Western Road – indicating that the number of students causing problems is a small number of the student population; noting that these students are very vocal; advising that there are alternative measures that can be taken if the Police choose to look the other way; advising that London does not enforce lodging houses at the present time; indicating that the Universities and Colleges could run as a business and students would have to sign a Code of Conduct; and, indicating that the Charter of Rights does give you the right to freedom, but does not give you the right to break the law.
- Laura Cricht, Nursing Student – advising that we need to create a community of caring rather than blame; indicating that not all students are the same; noting that the generalized approach being taken is not effective; suggesting that it would be better to give students community service; recommending that students should meet the residents to see how they live as well; indicating that students want to be a part of this community; and, indicating that students are here to learn.
- Sean Quigley, Executive Director, Emerging Leaders, 59 Pennybrook Crescent – expressing appreciation to Police Chief Duncan for reaching out to the various community groups; indicating that Project Learn failed because we failed it collectively as a community; recognizing that the events that took place on Fleming Drive shocked the city; noting that there was a small number of students involved in that event; and, advising that the answer is to work with the community to build a more vibrant and healthy London.
- Susan Bentley, 34 Mayfair Drive – advising that the number of students has increased greatly over the years; indicating that a lot of the houses in their neighbourhood have become landlord owned houses; indicating that Broughdale is not just a street, it is a community; expressing support for the educational information that the University provides to the students and the area residents; enquiring as to whether or not people read the information; and, encouraging everyone to get together to act communally on these issues.
- James Hirsh, 887 Richmond Street – requesting that everyone remember the importance of the Universities and Colleges within the community; encouraging the Committee to look at Project Learn as a whole.

Next Meeting

2. That the Town and Gown Committee will hold its next meeting at the Call of the Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.