

Dear Members of London City Council,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of 519Pursuit, we are writing to strongly and unequivocally advocate for the extension of the organization's contract as an essential partner within London's Whole of Community Response to homelessness. This extension is not optional—it is necessary to maintain stability, continuity, and safety within our community.

519Pursuit began as a grassroots initiative rooted in compassion, community, and a commitment to showing up for individuals who are too often overlooked. Today, it has become one of the most trusted and effective outreach partners in London's homelessness response. Its evolution has strengthened not only the organization itself, but the entire system of care. Removing or interrupting this contribution would create an immediate and measurable gap in service delivery.

As a Board, we have seen firsthand the organization's intentional growth, professionalization, and increasing capacity. 519Pursuit's outreach model—grounded in relationship-building, consistent presence, and meeting immediate needs through food security, care packages, survival gear, and system navigation—has proven indispensable. This work reaches individuals who are disconnected from traditional services and provides a critical entry point into the broader system. Without this engagement, many of these individuals simply will not be reached.

The requested contract extension is a pivotal investment in the stability and sustainability of this work. It will allow 519Pursuit to move into its first year of formalized fundraising with the security required to build long-term independence and reduce reliance on municipal funding. Denying or delaying this extension would undermine that progress and jeopardize the organization's ability to secure diversified funding in the future.

We are also entering a period when outreach is most urgently needed. Spring and summer bring increased visibility of homelessness, more encampments, and heightened demand for food, water, and survival supports. Without 519Pursuit's consistent presence during these months, London will face a significant and avoidable gap in front-line services.

The consequences of that gap are not theoretical. They are predictable and serious: increased strain on emergency services, greater pressure on food programs, reduced system coordination, and more individuals left without basic supports. The absence of 519Pursuit's outreach would reverberate across the entire community.

519Pursuit is not simply another service provider. It is a stabilizing force, a connector, and a trusted presence for some of the most marginalized members of our community. Its work strengthens the entire system and contributes directly to safer, healthier outcomes for everyone in London.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the approval of this contract extension. The cost of losing this service far outweighs the investment required to sustain it.

As a Board, we are confident in the organization's vision, leadership, and long-term sustainability plan. We have seen the strategic groundwork laid for responsible growth, diversified funding, and continued excellence in service delivery. For these reasons, we strongly and respectfully urge City Council to approve this contract extension—recognizing not only the immediate need it addresses, but the significant future opportunity it represents for a more stable, coordinated, and effective homelessness response in London.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to addressing homelessness in our community. Your decision in this matter will have a direct and meaningful impact on the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of some of London's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Janet
Member of the Board of Directors
519Pursuit