

March 27-2026

Community of Protective Services Committee

Corrine Rahman, Jerry Pribil, Sam Trosow , David Ferreira

London, City Hall.

Re- Extension of Funding for 519 Pursuit

Dear City Council members Corrine, Jerry, Sam and David,

I am a resident of Ward 10 and writing to formally request that the funding for 519 Pursuit be extended for at least another year.

Here is my story and the reason for my request for your support.

I was watching the news one night when I saw an interview with Allison the co-founder of 519 Pursuit and Glen Pearson which caught my attention. In follow up I reached out to Allison and after hearing her story I was hooked and have been volunteering with this organization for the last four years.

When I started I knew very little about homelessness and all the issues that go with it. From my experiences in doing outreach I have learned a tremendous amount about the homeless community and our friends on the street.

As an outreach volunteer I visit numerous encampments throughout the city providing hot meals, water, clothing, and a human connection. In many cases if it were not for these daily visits these friends on the street would not have access to these basic necessities. They count on us to be there for them. Imagine yourself in the dead of winter, huddled in a tent and bundled up in blankets and your only connection to the outside world and the things you need most are the 519 Pursuit volunteers.

In visiting the encampments and seeing friends on a weekly basis I have come to know their stories and learn more about them and their lives on the street, many of which are quite heart wrenching. I have witnessed frost bite and assisted in getting people medical attention. I have seen people in wheel chairs living in tents or worse yet and have been cared for by Sean and other volunteers. I have witnessed the emotions of homeless friends after having all their belongings stolen and then the relief and gratification that come from having clothing and other necessities replaced by 519 Pursuit. I have experienced the sadness and fear that comes to people who have just spent their first night on the street and have seen the relief that comes from just being able to tell their story to a compassionate volunteer.

In my years as a volunteer I have met many homeless friends that I don't know well but at least know them on a first name basis and enjoy having conversation with them. There is one who in particular who is very unique. I have come to know him very well through his story which he has shared with me. It has helped me understand the ways of the homeless and see them in a very different light. He has managed to turn his life around and is now off the streets. This would not have happened without his association with 519 Pursuit and its volunteers. I continue to visit him every Thursday to see how he is doing.

I think the human connection the staff and volunteers have with these folks is as important as the meals and clothing that they provide.

As a volunteer I have witnessed and felt the pain that the homeless people experience. I have learned so much about the causes of homelessness, the fears and anxiety, the trials and tribulations and so much more. What I have witnessed and my experiences with 519 Pursuit and the friends on the street have made me a better person.

I have been a volunteer for over 20 years with different organizations and can honestly say that volunteering with 519 Pursuit has provided me with some of my most rewarding experiences.

Our friends on the street have come to recognize the 519 Pursuit vans and know that they can count on them for meals, clothing, moral support and so much more. It would be a real hardship and huge disappointment for them if the outreach services they provide were no longer available.

If you truly want to see firsthand the good work and service that 519 Pursuit, it's staff and volunteers do contact Sean at 519 Pursuit and arrange to spend a few hours in the van doing outreach with him.

In closing I ask for your support in extending the contract for funding and thank you for your time, consideration and service to the city of London.

Sincerely,

Pete Mosey