

Dear Members of London City Council

I am writing to express my strong support for the extension of 519Pursuit's contract as a vital component of London's Whole of Community Response to homelessness.

Over the past several years, 519Pursuit has established itself as a consistent, trusted presence for individuals facing homelessness and extreme poverty in our city. Through street-level outreach, the team provides essential supports including food security, care packages, survival gear, and system navigation—meeting people where they are, often in encampments or in moments of urgent need.

What sets 519Pursuit apart is not only the immediacy of these supports, but the intentional focus on building relationships rooted in dignity and trust. These connections often become the first step toward stability—opening the door to housing, healthcare, and other critical services.

A defining strength of 519Pursuit's work is the pathway it creates for individuals to move forward in their journey. Many who are initially supported through outreach go on to volunteer with the organization, using their lived experience to connect with others in similar situations. In time, some of these individuals transition into employment within 519Pursuit itself.

This progression—from being supported, to giving back, to becoming a member of the outreach team—is more than a program outcome; it is a powerful example of restoration, purpose, and belonging. For those who now work with 519Pursuit after experiencing homelessness, it represents an opportunity to rebuild identity, regain stability, and be part of meaningful, community-driven change. It also strengthens the outreach model, as those with lived experience bring unmatched empathy, credibility, and understanding to the work.

After my journey with addiction and homelessness, I became a volunteer, then employee of 519Pursuit.

I've witnessed many vulnerable people secure housing through the help of 519Pursuit. These people are now giving back to the community by volunteering with us. It has been an amazing process to witness and be a part of.

As part of the Whole of Community Response, 519Pursuit plays a critical role at the front lines. The team consistently reaches individuals who may not yet be connected—or may have become disconnected—from traditional systems of care. Without this trusted presence, many of our most vulnerable community members risk being left behind, and the broader system loses a vital entry point for engagement.

At a time when the need for coordinated, compassionate, and consistent outreach has never been greater, it is essential that we continue to invest in organizations that not only meet immediate needs, but also create long-term pathways toward independence and stability.

I respectfully urge City Council to approve a contract extension for 519Pursuit, ensuring that this essential work continues uninterrupted. Supporting 519Pursuit is an investment in people, in possibility, and in a stronger, more connected community for all.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued commitment to addressing homelessness in London.

Sincerely,

Patty O'Neill

Outreach Worker - 519Pursuit