

Dear Members of London City Council,

As a member of the Board of Directors of 519Pursuit, I am writing to express my full support for the extension of the organization's contract as a vital partner within London's Whole of Community Response to homelessness.

519Pursuit began as a grassroots initiative committed to showing up for individuals facing homelessness. Over the past several years, it has grown into a trusted, consistent and essential outreach partner within the broader system of care and has enhanced the collective impact of the Whole of Community Response.

As a Board, we have witnessed the organization's intentional growth and increasing capacity. 519Pursuit has developed a model rooted in relationship-building, consistent outreach, and meeting immediate needs through food security, care packages, survival gear, and system navigation. This work is foundational to engaging individuals who are often disconnected from traditional services and functions as a critical entry point into the system.

The requested contract extension represents a pivotal opportunity. It will provide the stability needed for 519Pursuit to transition into its first year of formalized fundraising efforts, with the goal of building long-term sustainability and reducing reliance on municipal funding in the future. This is not simply an extension—it is an investment in the organization's ability to strengthen its independence while continuing to deliver essential services.

We are also approaching a time of year when the need for outreach intensifies. In the spring and summer months, we see a rise in visible homelessness, increased encampment activity, and greater demand for food, water, and survival supports. Without the consistent presence of 519Pursuit during this period, there will be a significant gap in service at the street level.

The absence of this outreach will impact individuals experiencing homelessness and have implications for the community as a whole. Increased strain on emergency services, heightened pressure on food programs, and reduced system coordination are all likely outcomes if this critical front-line support is not maintained.

519Pursuit is more than a service provider; it is a connector, a stabilizer, and a trusted presence within our community. Its work strengthens the overall system and contributes to safer, healthier outcomes for everyone in London.

As a Board, we are confident in the organization's vision, leadership, and long-term sustainability plan. **We urge the City Council to approve this contract extension, recognizing both the immediate need and the future opportunity it represents.**

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

Sincerely,

Anita Smith-Kelly

519Pursuit Board of Directors