

April 9th, 2026

Mayor Josh Morgan & City Councillors

Subject: CPSC Report Item 4.2

Your Worship and Members of Council,

My name is Emma Richard. I am writing today as a resident of Ward 13 and active community member to draw attention to an item being brought forward from CPSC to council. The item in question is Item 4.2, "Basic Needs and Pathway Options Feasibility of Contract Extension - 519Pursuit Umbrella Relief Programs Inc."

Regarding this Item, I want to express my full support for extending the contract with 519Pursuit for outreach services from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. I am saddened to hear that already this month 519Pursuit has had to shift from serving 200 meals a day to 120 meals a day on Mondays through Fridays. Without this extension of funding, that number could soon become zero.

As someone who has done volunteer encampment outreach, and someone who lives near an encampment, the work that 519Pursuit does is very close to my heart. I have witnessed the impact that this sort of outreach has in people's lives, both as a participant and as a neighbour. I am always glad to see the folks with 519Pursuit roll up and offer lifesaving resources like food and water, as well as personal connection.

All people have a right to food, and this funding will be able to help realize that right in a concrete way. With 519Pursuit's operations being largely volunteer-run, funding their work goes directly to supporting people's basic survival needs with food, water, and other essential supplies. Beyond that, it helps show the unhoused members of our community that they are just that - members of our community, who like all of us are worthy of care.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Emma Richard  
Ward 13

