

April 9, 2026

**Attention: Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee**

**Re: Agenda Item 4.2 – Report Back: Basic Needs and Pathway Options for 519Pursuit**

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support the continuation of funding for 519Pursuit. The staff report outlines three potential pathways forward and I respectfully ask that you endorse one of those options.

From a system-level perspective, 519Pursuit is not an ancillary service, it is a core component of our community's coordinated response to unsheltered homelessness. Their work delivering basic needs, conducting persistent and relationship-based outreach, and facilitating connections into health, housing, and social supports fills a critical role within our broader service continuum.

As you are aware, individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are often the most disconnected from formal systems of care. Outreach is the primary mechanism through which engagement begins. 519Pursuit's team operates at this essential front line, building trust over time, reducing barriers to service access, and supporting individuals to take initial steps toward stability. Without this function, the effectiveness of downstream services is significantly diminished.

Equally important is their role as a collaborative partner. 519Pursuit contributes to real-time system coordination by sharing information, aligning resources, and responding to emerging needs across the community. Their presence strengthens the overall responsiveness and cohesion of our homelessness response system.

Reduction in 519Pursuit's capacity would have immediate and measurable impacts. We would expect to see increased pressure on emergency services, reduced service engagement among unsheltered individuals, and greater challenges in moving people from homelessness into appropriate supports and housing.

At a time when the scale and complexity of homelessness in London continues to intensify, maintaining effective system infrastructure is essential. 519Pursuit represents a proven service that directly supports our shared objectives of engagement, stabilization, and housing outcomes.

Sincerely,



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