

From: bettyboop
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2026 10:33 PM
To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] letter: Item 4.6 Councillor D.Ferreira

Please add my submission to the 6th Meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
Item 4.6 – Councillor D. Ferreira – Advocacy Request – For-Profit Addiction Treatment in Ontario

I agree that to make a difference on the issue of addiction and homelessness, all agencies must be involved and treatment complete, without political bias. For example, the housing 'crisis' is really one of affordability and not supply. All the efforts to date spearheaded by Mayor Morgan. do not address the reason for homelessness, which is affordability for those on the lowest income scale. Do we know whether individuals become homeless because of addiction or does one become homeless because there is no provincial treatment for mental health, or does one become homeless because they cannot afford even the most basic cost of housing, which in turn, leads to addiction and mental health issues?

For these reasons all levels: lack of affordable housing, addiction and mental health must be treated as a "whole" , and not segmented or parcelled out to agencies that are not connected.

And the city must stop 'averaging' rental rates, as this is irrelevant to those that are at the lowest income scale. In reality, the provincial and federal govt. need to once again begin building public housing - rent geared to income and stop placing the burden on the market.

Cities must utilize tools such as the Demolition and Conversion Control By-Law to either preserve existing affordable housing or ensure equal number of units lost are recreated in new development.

It is not just one thing, and unless decision makers fully understand the problem and approach it holistically, it will always be one step backwards.

Municipalities should also understand they cannot carry the load and must advocate on their own behalf to higher levels of govt. to be involved. Finally, the City of London must stop averaging the cost of property taxes to define the burden on home owners and rental properties. The property taxes imposed by Council have now contributed to the affordability of housing. You will never make a dent on the issue if you are not honest about the problem, and right now, I believe you are not honest and simply placating yourselves with a few gestures here and there without addressing the larger issue.

AnnaMaria Valastro