



## Business Improvement Area

December 22, 2011

Mr. Ross Fair  
Executive Director, Community Services/Administration  
Municipality of the City of London  
Market Tower, Third Floor  
161 Dundas Street  
London, ON, N6A 5R7

Dear Mr. Fair,

Further to our telephone conversation of December 13, 2011, I am writing to request the removal of the needle disposal bins from the City parking lots in the Old East Village. Since their installation I have received complaints and concerns from local businesses about the lack of consultation or notification before the bins were installed, the placement of the bins and their possible negative impact on adjacent businesses.

I am aware that the bins were placed in the lots upon the direction of the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee on September 13, 2011. At that meeting a letter from the BIA requesting the assistance from your department to create a community based approach to dealing with illegal and on street drug use was also discussed. To my knowledge no community group that provided letters to the Committee requested the installation of the bins.

Subsequent to the September 13<sup>th</sup> you attended a BIA board meeting to learn more about the concerns of the business community with respect to escalating illegal drug use on the commercial corridor. As a result of a very useful conversation I understood that Community Services would facilitate the creation of a local community group to create integrated short and long term strategies to address the problem. It was agreed that the group would consist of Community Services, representatives from the local the businesses, social services and residential communities and London Police Services. Four BIA board members agreed to participate in the group.

We are therefore requesting the removal of the bins as their installation, without community consultation, is contrary to the business community's understanding of how Community Services will be working with us to resolve issues related to illegal drug use in our business district.

I appreciate that the direction from the Community and Neighbourhood Committee was a well meant attempt to address the issue .However; any strategies to address the problem will be most successful if the community has the opportunity to participate in the identification and ratification of solutions.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the New Year.

Kindest regards,

Ken Keane  
Chair  
Old East Village BIA