



Business Improvement Area

January 27, 2012,

To: His Worship Joe Fontana and Members of Council
Re: Community Services Committee Motion in support of Old East Village Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Strategy.

The Old East Village BIA, the Old East Village Community Association and members of the East London Merchants Organisation would like to thank the Community Services Committee for their support of our proposal to create an Old East Village neighbourhood based harm reduction strategy that would include the appropriate placement of needle disposal bins.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for Council's support of the motion and ensure that the nature of our proposal is clear. We understand the value of needle disposal bins as part of a comprehensive harm reduction strategy. Therefore our proposal should not be misinterpreted as an opposition to the placement of needle disposal bins in the parking lots nor is it driven by self-interest at the expense of others. Rather it should be understood as a request to participate in the creation of a harm reduction strategy for our neighbourhood, as was the intention of a motion passed by the Neighbourhood Services Committee on September 13th 2011.

From our experience of working together on the revitalization of our neighbourhood we have learned these kinds of issues are most successfully addressed when all sectors of the community are brought together to create solutions. Neighbourhood business owners, area residents, social service providers and users of harm reduction services are all important members of the community. As such, they need to be involved in a genuine and thorough community engagement process to create and implement the strategy. Our proposal ensures that this will happen.

We respectfully request that Council supports the motion that was passed at the Community Services Committee meeting and we look forward to working with all parties on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Manager, Old East Village BIA