

2015-05-06
Linda Purser-Conley
337 Regal Drive
London, Ontario
N5Y 1J3
May 6, 2015

Ms. Norman, Chairperson
Community Safety & Crime Prevention
Advisory Board
City Clerk's Office
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Dear Ms. Norman:

Prior to my retirement from Safety and Disability Management, I had served with your committee as the representative for the Board of Education for the City of London and subsequently the Thames Valley District School Board. During my tenure I became familiar with the scope of issues the Committee investigated and resolved for the City and it's residents.

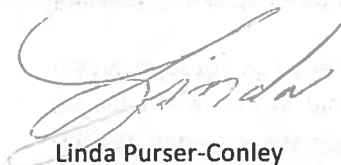
Recently I attended a community meeting with my neighbours to discuss with our Ward 3 Councillor, Mo Salih, the locations chosen by the City and Canada Post for Community Mailboxes. Of course, none of the 40 citizens in attendance were in favour of retrofitting these mailboxes in an older neighborhood which is not specifically designed for them, but the focus of the meeting was on the locations chosen for the boxes and the safety and accessibility concerns of the community using them.

I have attached a copy of the meeting minutes for your perusal and am asking that the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee evaluate what I feel may become a hazardous situation if the City does not practice due diligence.

Jan Pennycook has been quite active in our neighbourhood and has advised me that she would be willing to speak to the Committee, I understand your next meeting is May 28th.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Linda Purser-Conley

May 1, 2015

Dear Neighbour:

These are the minutes from our community mailbox meeting on Monday, April 27/15. I'm very glad that you were able to attend.

There are a number of questions that were asked in the meeting and are waiting for answers. In this regard, I have included information that Mo Salih has been able to receive from Andy Paterson at Canada Post since our meeting. This information is also available on the Canada Post website.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about how to improve our postal service. (Community mailboxes are not a service improvement.)

I am aware of two excellent letters that have been written since our meeting. Please consider writing.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Pennycook

333 Regal Drive

Mo Salih

msalih@london.ca

Susan Truppe

Susan.Truppe@parl.gc.ca

Andy Paterson

Andrew.Paterson@canadapost.postescanada.ca

COMMUNITY MAILBOX MEETING IN WARD 3

Monday, April 27, 2015

Attendance: 35 signed in at the door
plus approx. 5 latecomers

Special Guest: Mo Salih

This was an interactive conversation circle focused on shared experiences and concerns about community mailbox placement and implementation and meaningful, problem-solving dialogue with Mo Salih, City Councillor for Ward 3.

There were 6 broad areas of discussion:

Property Concerns

- lawn irrigation systems have been installed underground throughout the lawn and right to the curb at considerable expense to the property owner
- site location is in an area that drains poorly and is distant from other homes
- owners' right to upgrade their property (e.g., alternative driveway access) is compromised

Does Canada Post have the right to damage property (i.e., underground irrigation systems) to install community mailboxes?

Does Canada Post have the right to block a homeowner's plans for his or her property due to community mailbox installation?

Traffic Concerns

- request by group for four-way stop on Hillcrest Ave. at Vesta Rd.
- unacceptable traffic speed on Hillcrest Ave., Justamere Rd., and Kipps Lane
- no sidewalks
- traffic signage does not support the placement of community mailboxes (e.g., no parking signs)
- potential for increase in vehicle ticketing
- provincial offences can no longer be challenged in court

Ability Concerns

- no sidewalks
- residents in this community are older
- surgery, accident, or illness can temporarily impair ability

What accommodations will be put in place by Canada Post for residents who are not permanently disabled, but immobilized through medical procedures (e.g., a hip replacement) for a more limited period of time?

Maintenance Concerns

- ensuring adequate snow removal
- dealing with litter accumulation, since, beyond putting up a sign if requested, Canada Post refuses to take responsibility for this
- managing a chain of contractors who are employed by Canada Post to guarantee an effective response to mailbox upkeep

Will the City of London assign a staff person to manage and monitor Canada Post's maintenance of the mailboxes in the city?

Will the City of London establish bylaws that enforce effective maintenance of community mailboxes by allowing city workers to intervene to provide proper maintenance for the mailboxes and charge the costs to Canada Post if upkeep is not done in a timely fashion?

Questions

1. What is City Council doing at this point to investigate and address the multiple concerns about community mailbox installation?
2. Why doesn't City Council simply say no to Canada Post as a number of other cities have?
3. Which level of government has jurisdiction over municipal property? (It is called "municipal" property.)
4. What process is being developed for the reassessment of property for taxation purposes as a result of community mailbox placement?
5. How will homeowners be compensated for damage to their property (e.g., lawn sprinkler systems) due to the installation of community mailboxes?
6. Who will be held liable for accidents (e.g., falls) that occur while attempting to use a community mailbox?

7. How can the traffic calming policy be implemented more effectively around community mailboxes?
8. What provisions have been made to ensure mail security at community mailboxes in London?
9. How will the changes being made to the way Provincial Offences are being administered be exacerbated by flawed traffic design around community mailboxes that leads to more vehicle ticketing?

Next Steps

Residents:

- Talk to your neighbours
- Write to the Mayor and City Councillors
- Write to the Civic Works Committee
- Write, observe a meeting, or even present a delegation to the Public Safety Committee
- Write to Susan Truppe (no postage required)
- Get involved with *Save Canada Post* or *Londoners4Door2Door*
- Organize a big "No Community Mailboxes" rally in Victoria Park

Mo Salih:

- Arrange a meeting for this community with the city hall staff who oversee traffic arrangements so that the community can pre-approve mailbox locations and appropriate signage before Canada Post is allowed to install community mailboxes
- Seek clarification from Canada Post that the City Councillor has the right to refuse any proposed mailbox location

Respectfully submitted by Jan Pennycook