

**Citizen Submission**  
**To**  
**Public Safety Committee, City of London**  
**Public Meeting of April 2, 2012**

I understand that London citizens have been requested to express their concerns, and give comment with respect to the proposed new Nuisance By-Law, as circulated for discussion. As I am advised, this forum has been designated to hear concerns generally from the community as to matters infringing citizen rights to peaceful, safe and quiet neighbourhoods, particularly in light of the recent riot in the Fanshawe area. I would like to submit my comments and concerns herein.

**Proposed new By-law**

I believe that the proposed new by-law effectively addresses the issues of concern to citizens as far as the City of London alone may act. I do believe, however, that the minimum fine set under the legislation should be raised to \$1000. I also believe that, if possible and where appropriate, police officers should be given the further right to seize vehicle keys of drunken individuals who are attending out-of-control parties, where in the discretion of the officer, the individual could pose a threat to public safety, even though he may not be legally "impaired" or would exceed blood alcohol test levels were he to be tested.

**Provincial and Federal Legislation**

I would also submit that the City of London should work with other municipalities to pressure the provincial government to pass legislation which would assist the municipalities in their attempts to curb outrageous behaviour through measures which would "fill the gap" between those within the city's ambit and authority and the federal authority over criminal matters (ie riot legislation). Also, changes should be made to the criminal code to update the unlawful assembly provisions so that legislation at the federal, provincial and municipal levels all dovetail to ensure a legal solution to the entire range of behaviours which have given so much concern.

**University Measures**

As the problems experienced in London are also be encountered in other municipalities on a regular basis, particularly in University and College towns, measures need to be taken to make the administrations of these entities more accountable for the actions of their students. Measures could range from public awareness campaigns within the educational institutions pointing out the wrongness of student actions, the penalties which will be imposed on conviction and stiff academic sanctions (suspension, expulsion) where convictions are obtained, including convictions under the proposed by-law.

Measurable results should be established for each university/college and where an institution falls short of reaching those goals, there should be reductions to grant monies paid to the institutions by all levels of government which currently provide such funding.

Universities and Colleges should be made to be proactive in holding students accountable for both on campus and off campus behaviour. There should be a concerted effort by the institutions to reduce the "hype" associated with student events (ie: frosh week, concerts, holidays, championship games etc). **A mandatory civics course, emphasizing good citizenship, and adult behaviour expectations, should be put in place for all 1<sup>st</sup> year students.** This course should require attendance by all, and attendance taken, with grades being reduced or students failed where they do not attend the course. **Admission into 2<sup>nd</sup> year should be conditional on passing this course.**

Where such commitments do not already exist, students should be required to sign a code of conduct while attending the institution and failure to adhere to that code should result in **mandatory** suspension or expulsion.

**There needs to be tangible consequences for the institutions and their leaders where they do not commit to cleaning up the problems associated with their institutions.**

These should include firings of key people (including the President) and financial penalties (withdrawal of funding, grants etc) where targets are missed.

### **Penalties and New Requirments for Tavern/Bar Operators**

Severe penalties should be instituted and enforced where bar operators serve already intoxicated individuals. Existing limits on the numbers of people who can be served within each establishment should be enforced. Establishment owners should be required to shut down early on certain nights (Frosh week, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's day etc.) to give students less opportunity/ excuse for their drunken escapades.

A public awareness campaign should be instituted through Brewers Retail and LCBO outlets making individuals aware of the consequences of violating the new by-law, the criminal code etc.

### **Penalties for Absentee Landlords**

Provision should be made to hold Landlords accountable in some measure for the activities of their students. For example, where out of control parties take place at a specific residence, the owner of the premises should be fined if he does not actively pursue eviction proceedings under residential tenancy legislation.

### **Change in Attitude of Students and Policing/Educational and Legal Authority Figures**

Finally, I believe that there needs to be a change in the way that we, as a society, and our legal institutions treat the behaviours we were witness to in the Fleming Drive riots. We need to **treat offenders in such situations as criminals**, pure and simple. The fact that

such individuals may, in addition, attend one of our educational institutions, should not be an ameliorating factor. These are not students, who have gotten a little rowdy in their celebrations. They are people who have engaged in criminal activity and must be treated as such. They should be held accountable in the same manner as any other member of society and the responsibility for their behaviour should be theirs alone. Stiff punitive provisions are the only way to achieve this outcome.

Respectfully submitted,

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