March 26, 2018

RE: DRUG CONSUMPTION SITE
372 York Street, London, Ontario 7 or 120 York @ Talbot

I have operated my used car lot at the same location 448 York Street for 46 years. I feel qualified to comment on the decline of the downtown core. No amount of money spent on downtown improvements is going to bring the downtown back to its glory until the the social issues are faced and appropriately solved. I commend Mr. Fahri for all he has done to invest in the downtown area. I was very happy to hear about the extraordinary plans he has for the London Free Press building. The next day after hearing this good news I read in the front page of the London Free Press about the proposed Drug Consumption site directly across the street.

My business is across the street from the Mission. In recent days I have had to call the police twice to my business. I have people breaking in to cars to sleep because they have been turned away from the mission for one reason or another. I have dealt with break ins, vandalism, a man who sits on the sidewalk nearly every day in front of my business drinking beer, another man urinating on my cars. These characters intimidate my customers, especially the female customers, and make them apprehensive about coming to my business. Every time my wife attempts to go to the market she is approached for money. They also stand at the intersections begging. Another person I know works in the Wellington/Horton area and she has had her car vandalized several times. I also have friends who moved to a high rise building near the forks and they are unable to enjoy a walk along the pathway because of the homeless who loiter there.

The proposed site for the Drug Consumption site will only hurt the downtown. It is too close to a funeral home, Convention Centre and hotels, not to mention the Y and high schools.

I realize it is a huge stretch to propose that the city consider re-locating the mission, meth clinics and drug consumption site outside of the downtown area but it is the only way the downtown can thrive and be an inviting place.

I am a compassionate person and I do care about people in need but the city needs to wake up and realize that we have a serious problem in downtown London. I would appreciate hearing from you and your opinion if this is something that concerns you also.

Sincerely

Dennis Krogman