

April 27, 2018

Dear Councilor,

The Middlesex Health Unit has proposed a Supervised Consumption Facility for opioids to be located at 446 York St. I write this letter to convey that I am strongly opposed to this location.

My business is located at 444 York St. and I own the building as well. Additionally I own the building at 333 Burwell which has residential apartments. Our business has been here for 13 years. It is a full service financial planning and investment counseling firm. We have over 600 clients; 95% come to our office for their meetings. We have invested heavily in preserving the heritage of the buildings as well as the upkeep. We maintain business hours from 8am to 5pm.

The TVDSB and the Separate School Board have conveyed to the Middlesex Health Board that they do not support this proposed location as it is within 300 meters of Beal. Paul Sydor, Superintendent of TVDSB, was at the meeting on April 26th at 399 Ridout St. Hosted by the Health Unit and stated this information. We are in complete agreement with the School Boards that this location is too close to Beal.

There are 17 businesses within 500 meters of this proposed site and it is proposed to be placed in the middle of 7 businesses that rely significantly on foot traffic for the success and ongoing viability of their business.

There are a number of high density residential apartments within 250 meters of the proposed site. At the meeting on April 26th, the tenants that attended expressed grave concern with this location.

York St. is a significant east/west vehicle artery into downtown with large volumes of traffic. Being located right beside the proposed site we wish to inform council that jay walking is an everyday occurrence. Vehicles must take evasive maneuvers to avoid people crossing to the men's mission, either by braking, swerving around the jaywalker or changing lanes. We are very concerned that this location will have an increase of impaired jaywalkers putting both pedestrians and drivers at risk.

The City has invested significant money in the Convention Center and supports the expansion of Western Fair. These are tourist areas and York St. is a major travel route for people attending either facility or commuting between the two. Increasing the density of homeless and impaired drug users in this area during business hours is not appropriate.

There has been significant investment by the local businesses in their properties in the last number of years and it is proposed that there be a more. This is a revitalized community.

At the meeting, the Health Unit used a slide to show property values in Vancouver near the Supervised Consumption Facility on the east side of Vancouver have increased over the last 10 years. Respectfully, that is not valid or relevant to London, as the Vancouver real estate market is an anomaly in Canada. We

have real concerns about our property values and the ability to get property insurance or being subject to increased rates. The property owners have retained counsel and if 446 York St. is approved will be applying to MPAC for a reduction in their property taxes.

A community is an ecosystem and currently there is a precarious balance between the men's mission, businesses, property owners, residents and customers visiting the area of the proposed site. There are real issues with the mission, however, the community embraces the need for the mission and deals with these problems as part to this ecosystem. The addition of an influx of people at 446 York St has a real risk of throwing the community out of balance.

The community was notified on April 23rd that the Health Unit would be holding a meeting on April 26th at 399 Ridout St to discuss their proposed site. There has been no consultation with the community. In fact, the proposal to the Planning and Environment Committee scheduled to be heard by Council on April 30th was posted to the Health Units website before the first community meeting.

The speed in which the Health Unit is moving to force the approval of this location is not appropriate. There has not been proper study or debate. This is a serious issue and the community needs to be properly consulted and respected.

For these reasons I urge you to not support the location of a supervised Consumption Facility at 446 York St and to modify the Health Unit's proposal to reflect that.

We understand what the Health Unit is trying to accomplish, however, this is not the right location.

Lance Howard

444 York St