

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 place of work is located at 444 York St., which has been here for 13 years. We are a full service financial planning and investment counseling firm. We have over 600 clients; 95% come to our office for their meetings.

My biggest concern with this proposed location at 446 York Street is the fact that we are close to 3 schools, and many of the children have to walk past this facility to get to school. The loitering at the Mission is bad enough some days, but with this added facility there will be more. I am also concerned for my well-being as I start early in the morning.

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>, the tenants that attended expressed grave concern with this location.

York Street 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 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 more. This is a revitalized community.

A community is an ecosystem and currently there is a precarious balance between the 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 23<sup>rd</sup> that the Health Unit would be holding a meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

GracePost  
444 York St