

April 22, 2018

City of London
300 Dufferin
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9



Attention: Chair and members, Planning and Environment Committee

Re: Proposed Supervised Consumption Site 120 York Street

I am the owners of a shoe repair shop close to the proposed injection site. I attended the community information meeting last night and would like to express my opinion on this location as the possible location for the supervised consumption site. While we all agree, there needs to be a place that people can go and safely inject, 120 York Street does not meet the objectives of the City of London's criteria nor would be in the best interest of downtown London.

120 York Street does not meet the following criteria:

- It is not a discrete location
- It is not separated from busy pedestrian oriented commercial areas
- It is not separated from public spaces that generate pedestrian traffic or may generate large crowds from time to time. (Budweiser Gardens, Bus station, Train station, Covent Garden Market)
- It is within a residential neighbour of many residential towers and downtown apartments with more expected to start in the next month (89 York Street)
- It is within very close range to international high school, new building proposed by YOU for young mothers, babies and infants.
- It is not separated from key pedestrian corridors within the Core Area
- It is not separate from busy commercial areas or active public spaces that could generate conflicts between the general public and those leaving supervised consumption facilities after consuming.

Items of Concern:

- Close to bus station where people/visitors/students are coming and going daily - first impression of Downtown London
- Lots of positive commercial development in the area which will be stifled by this facility. i.e. I had two individuals cancel their showings for residential units in our building today from the article in the London Free Press. They did not want to live near facility.
- Lots of retail business in the area - Talbot Street is a thriving jewel of Downtown London with positive energy from Budweiser Gardens and the pedestrian activity that happens from the parking lots in the area as they make their way to special events. This would be a detriment to all the work in the downtown area to revitalize.

- Visual to all guests/patrons and large groups of people going to Budweiser Gardens including children events, public skating, hockey and basketball teams.
- Busy pedestrian oriented commercial area as well as large number of residential buildings. Residents concerned about the location and their safety.
- Not a good location for central use as 120 York Street is in the west end of downtown. Location across from the London Free Press building is better location as problem is both downtown and old east village. Within walking distance to both areas if located further east. London Free Press site does not have much development so it minimizes the effect on surrounding businesses.
- Huge events where people fill the streets -Juno Awards, Curling, Disney on Ice, to name a few. Parking is spread throughout this area along with restaurants, coffee shops, that bring lots of people in this area. Possible issues with consumers.
- Concern of drug dealers concentrating near the proposed site to sell drugs for supervised consumption and interaction of individuals who consume once let out of facility with busy pedestrian area.
- General day to day key pedestrian corridor for bus station, train station - busy area for discrete location.

The Middlesex Health Unit presented a very well run information session and tried to outline the positives of the supervised consumption site, which I know may be true. While there may be a benefit to the users, it is a detriment to businesses, residents, public places in the area that have invested and embraced the positive building and chose to purchase their home or business in this area. Our property taxes have increased 20% in 2017 and another 16% in 2018 due to the positive growth in this area. This site will definitely reverse the trend. Perception is reality for most people. It will reverse all that the Downtown Business Association is working so hard to achieve.

While I do own a business that will be greatly affected by this location, I would feel the same way if I had nothing to lose. For the City of London this would be a huge mistake.

Respectfully Submitted;

Gary Coakley

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