

Chair of Planning and Environment Committee and Committee Members

**City of London
300 Dufferin Ave
PO Box 5035
London ON N6A 4L9**

Re: Zoning, Definition of Supervised Consumption Sites, and 241 Simcoe Street

I am writing to urge the members of the Planning and Environment Committee, and by extension all of City Council, to define supervised consumption sites as “*Supervised Consumption Sites*” in recognition of the unique characteristics and exceptional circumstances that distinguish these sites from those typically defined as “*Clinics*”; most specifically, the exemption that permits dangerous and illicit substances for the purpose of self-consumption, or the administering or transferring of said substances, provided it does not involve any exchanges for financial compensation, goods or services. This exemption is atypical and in the public interest requires additional planning considerations, risk assessments, site selection criteria, and public scrutiny above and beyond that typically required by sites designated as “*Clinics*”.

In addition, I urge the Committee and by extension all of Council, to reject approving zoning or planning changes that would allow a safe consumption site to be located at the proposed location, 241 Simcoe Street; or, in any multi-tenanted residential building in the City not purpose specific to, and solely occupied by, clientele of the supervised consumption clinic and those seeking support through the clinic.

Council and the broader community through consultation has already determined the rationale as to why supervised consumption sites should not be included in residential buildings and this is reflected in the *Council Policy on Supervised Consumption Sites*, most specifically, to avoid land use conflicts. Two of the established criteria are premised on the need to keep children away from a use that includes the consumption of illicit drugs, and the recognition that the unique uses of supervised consumption facilities are not compatible with residential uses. So why then, would Council endorse a multi-tenanted residential apartment building which children and youth attend; and particularly, an apartment building housed by a vulnerable population that is also at high-risk of being intimidated and victimized? It defies common sense and undermines the public trust in Council’s ability to create a well-thought out and community supported set of guidelines and then adhere to it afterwards.

Additional public consultation must ensue on the proposed planning change given the disregard for the established “rulebook”. Locating a supervised consumption facility in a residential apartment building creates a scenario not previously considered in the collective, and a closer examination of the consequences and contingent circumstances is required. It requires an informed citizenry to make informed decisions in order to provide input into municipal zoning and/or planning decisions and thus far, other than a generic overview of what a supervised consumption site is, no practical and factual information pertaining specifically to this location, or more broadly, the implication for multi-tenanted neighbourhood buildings as a whole, has been forthcoming.

I respectfully request that the Planning and Environment Committee Members, and indeed, all of Council, defer land use planning changes until such time as the above considerations have been addressed.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Glazer
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