

To: the Planning and Environment Committee, City of London

We are firmly in support of saving lives and especially treatment and support services to overcome drug addiction. We commend the Health Unit for its caring, compassionate and innovative approach to this very serious problem.

We live about 3 blocks from the current temporary safe injection site and we feel that, although the facility itself is unsatisfactory, the general location of that site makes sense. Regrettably, the same cannot be said for the proposed site at 446 York Street, about 3 blocks in the other direction from our residence. In our haste to establish a permanent site, we should not be in a rush to seize upon any site which a landlord is prepared to offer, regardless of its drawbacks.

Before approving the application to re-zone 446 York Street to locate a safe injection site, the PEC Committee should be aware that it would be violating at least two of the City's own policies, namely locating such a site squarely in (i) a School district, and (ii) a Residential neighborhood. ***446 York Street is within 3 blocks of 2 Secondary Schools plus a Day Care Centre, and 11 high density residential towers plus a number of single and multi-family homes. The attached listing and map highlight the obvious conflicts.***

Committee members should also give serious consideration to the additional City and Police resources which will surely have to be committed to prevent a repetition of the unfortunate situation which has befallen the downtown Toronto safe injection site, as reported in the Globe and Mail on November 3 - www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/toronto/article-neighbours-still-concerned-about-torontos-first-legal-supervised-drug/. Quoting the local Toronto City Councillor, "***They told us not to worry, that they were going to have it under control. And I think clearly they don't have it under control. It's very far from under control.***"

Also, approval may expose the City to legal action since the proposed use does not appear to qualify as a "Clinic" within the City's own Zoning by-law definition of "Clinic". According to Zoning By-law Z-1 (see attached extract), in order to qualify as a "Clinic" the building must be "... used by a medical doctor, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, chiropractor, and/or drugless practitioner, practice of health discipline, radiologic technician, or registered psychologist ...". We understand that a medical doctor will not be present at the safe injection site. Accordingly, It appears that the proposed facility would not be "used by" any of the acceptable listed practitioners.

If this site is approved and the worst happens – this high density school and residential neighborhood becomes inundated with unruly crowds, unacceptable behaviors, drug dealers and/or discarded drug paraphernalia – the Health Unit and the City should be ready to quickly move the site to a more suitable location to avoid long-lasting damage to the schools and the neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Jay and Jane Jeffery

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