

From: Doug Whitelaw
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:41 AM
To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City budget - housing

Dear Mr. Holder,

The apparent increase of those living on the streets has frequently been characterized as a 'crisis.' Crises are only resolved by setting other priorities aside. Although the Ark Aid Street Mission is not directly involved in providing housing, we have a front line view of the issues.

You may recall that during your first visit here, while an MP, we discussed the importance of housing. We have met with Craig Cooper and are impressed with his initiative. However, focus and funds from Council are necessary for anything more than band-aid solutions.

The current city budget proposals have three key investments being considered but at this point are not recommended for funding. These are:

- 1) "Additional funding for affordable housing - Part B"
- 2) London Middlesex Community Housing regeneration
- 3) London Middlesex Community Housing staffing and security

If we are successfully to address our housing crisis, these items are necessary to create and maintain an adequate housing supply and to help sustain vulnerable people in housing. I urge you and Council to apply all the tools at hand in this budget cycle to address this crisis even if it means leaving other worthwhile projects aside for the time being.

Thank you.

--

Doug Whitelaw
Executive Director
[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.arkaidmission.com_!!Mdh6Ok0KiQ!DYZ5gCKPgJ4bl_UOOJuWuLRuFzw8n63mn44WiLUYRHCUg0bZ-1pzatxZK8GGas\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.arkaidmission.com_!!Mdh6Ok0KiQ!DYZ5gCKPgJ4bl_UOOJuWuLRuFzw8n63mn44WiLUYRHCUg0bZ-1pzatxZK8GGas$@arkaidmission)
@arkaidmission

--

Doug Whitelaw
Executive Director
www.arkaidmission.com
@arkaidmission