

From: Vanisa Ezukuse

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 1:15 PM

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; van Holst, Michael <mvanholst@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Salih, Mo Mohamed <msalih@london.ca>; Helmer, Jesse <jhelmer@london.ca>; Cassidy, Maureen <mcassidy@london.ca>; Squire, Phil <psquire@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>; Pelozo, Elizabeth <epelozo@london.ca>; Kayabaga, Arielle <akayabaga@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concern Citizens Plea to Prioritize Housing and Homeless in Upcoming Budget Meeting

Dear London City Council,

The purpose of this writing is to ask you to prioritize the growing housing and homelessness crisis in London.

Communicating with the city's bylaws officers will let you know that they deal with up to 60 homeless camps on average a week! The camps are set up by individuals, who cannot afford anywhere else to live, or those who consider camping outside better than living in some of the deplorable conditions of the "affordable" houses.

I applaud the city's five-year plan to combat homelessness. However, with the gentrification of the city, and the driving up of housing prices and rent, something more immediate (alongside the 5-year plan) needs to be done to attend to the needs of the emergent homeless situations. "When there's a fire or flood, you don't put in place a five-year plan. You act. There needs to be a real will to help people out." (Margaret Wills, Head of the Crouch Center)

The London city council has made plans, asked for consultations, drafted bylaws and set guidelines for affordable housing; however, nothing is being done to make affordable housing available. To not consider or make room for the proposed additional funding for affordable housing is an error, that will only continue to take a negative toll on the City of London.

I plead with the London City Council to reconsider the following three key investments and recommend them for funding during the 2020-2023 budget plan;

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

The first two items allow for the creation of more affordable housing stock, the third item allows for supporting people already in social housing to remain housed. I believe that these are key investments and must be added to the budget. I urge you to consider the stated.

Cheers,

Vanisa Ezukuse, BScN
MSc Candidate – Health Promotion
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Western University

