

From: Karima Cassidy
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:43 PM
To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Affordable Housing in London

Dear Ed Holder/Mayor's office,

I am writing to you because I am deeply concerned about the budget decisions that city council are undertaking for the next 4 years.

I understand that three key investments are currently being considered but at this point are not recommended for funding for 2020-2023. These are:

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

This is a serious state of affairs for our city. As you must know, there are a daily growing number of people living rough on the streets, and with the rise in rental rates, rental units are becoming out of reach for many hardworking individuals in our city, let alone those on fixed incomes.

I saw the recent article in Global News regarding Ottawa's allotment of 130million, being put towards "495 Talbot St. and 110 Fullarton St. [which] will add 420 [affordable] units." When I look more closely at the background data discovered this is ONLY 110 units, targeted to rent at less than \$1,650, 84 of which are guaranteed at \$1,155. Rents are being projected based on median household income versus a percentage of average market rent as we are used to with affordable housing. Furthermore, I hear that these rents may increase by the time the site opens. This is a far cry from affordable for London's most marginal, for those on fixed incomes and even for many of whom are hard working people. The city must do better!

From an anecdotal perspective we put a basement unit up for rent at 900/month, for a 1 bedroom with a full kitchen and bath in the fall. We were inundated with applications and limited the viewings to 9 people. The state of desperation shocked us--- and these were people of affluence ---- not the people we expected to be applying, let alone desperate. These folks were looking for a clean, dignified place to live within their means, begging us to choose them. This was shocking and a far different scene than when our unit was last up on the market six years ago. If people of affluence are struggling to find a place to live, that won't break them financially, than how much more so our marginalized populations. The city is abandoning them with this sort of 495 Talbot St. strategy--and claiming the appearance of "doing something nobbler" about affordable housing.

I would like to see our City Council hold some harder lines for Landlords and Developers, otherwise the city is complicit to deepening the chasm of poverty and homelessness in London,

Sincerely,

Karima Cassidy