

Please forward this to all committee members, please place this on the public agenda. If you would like me to speak or ask questions of me as a delegate, contact me via email and I will make the time on Tuesday.

To all concerned,

I was recently made aware of a plan to continue offering a day space to vulnerable members of our community in the Hamilton Rd neighbourhood.

First, I was happy to see the city acted proactively at the onset of winter to provide spaces like this for those who need it and I'm happy that the site in question was a success for those who needed it.

What I'm disappointed about is the utter failure it was for all of us who live in the neighbourhood. Crime went up, vandalism and litter went up, awkward to potentially dangerous encounters went up. Risk to our lives and property went up.

Examples of the above...just this past week I've had to chase an individual off the private property of a neighbour-in the middle of the day, broad daylight. One encounter was finding an individual snooping on a front porch, the other was watching an individual brazenly walk into a neighbour's backyard. I kicked him out and called the police but as usual their response time was lacking and were unable to locate the individual. As a community we are finding trash, needles and drug paraphernalia all over the neighbourhood and in the forest we back onto. This is a community of young families with small children. I shouldn't have to worry about my daughter playing in the woods and getting stuck by a needle. Every week without fail, after garbage day I will find multiple bags of trash down in the woods, ransacked, picked through and left strewn all over. At least once a week when I drop my daughter off at Trafalgar Public School I'll see the custodian cleaning up after their large bins had been dumped. I think the TVDSB should be billing the city for the time it takes the custodian to deal with this.

Personally, I lost a very expensive and dear to me bicycle and some construction tools from behind my house over the Christmas break. We've been here for four years, I've left things on our back porch for those entire four years, but this year things get stolen. I don't believe in coincidence. Insurance covered it but my premiums will no doubt go up as a result. Do I get to bill the city for that added cost to my life? I had to deal with an individual on Hamilton Rd early one morning pacing up and down, shouting and waving a baseball bat around. I've witnessed individuals curse at children in the neighbourhood.

I understand that these people need a place, but I have to question this particular place. From what I can tell, none of the people that use it are local. I see them at the bus stop heading back downtown at the end of every day. There are plenty of vacant properties downtown that could be used for this as well.

But, let me say that this is not necessarily a NIMBY argument. My main argument is this. Once again the city has failed to put supports in place to support those in the community it is affecting. It happened downtown when Dundas Place was under construction. Crime and vandalism were constant. Again when the first stage of Dundas in OEV was under construction. Crime and vandalism unchecked. And yet again during the current stretch of Dundas St construction in OEV. You'd think that you would have learned by now but apparently not. The same goes for the other neighbourhoods you've dropped these Day Spaces and short term housing locations into. And who pays for your oversight and negligence? We do. The homeowners, business owners and taxpayers. The upstanding, productive, chose to put roots down people who make this city what it is.

So, I could support this Day Space being in my neighbourhood to support those who need it. I'm not without sympathy, empathy or understanding for their plight right now. But, and this is a big but. You need to also put in place real, meaningful supports for the neighbourhoods that surround these places. A full time, proper police presence. Twice daily visits by city sanitation crews to clean up the messes left every day. I shouldn't have to call. You shouldn't be reactive. You should be proactive and you should have seen the spillover effect coming when you set these up.

If you're going to put these spaces in people's backyards then you owe it to those people to keep their backyards safe and clean. Anything less is a dereliction of your duty and that is something I will not support. Do not leave it up to us to keep ourselves safe. You won't like the outcome of that.