

**From:** J Baskey  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** CPSC <[cpsc@london.ca](mailto:cpsc@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Continuation of Day Space at the Hamilton Road Senior's Centre

April 19th 2021

Community and Protective Services Committee

City of London

Re: Continuation of Day Space at the Hamilton Road Senior's Centre

Good morning,

I have been a resident at 99 Smith Street for 15 years now. I love my house, and my neighborhood despite its many challenges that we, as a neighborhood, face on a daily basis. Recently, the city has decided to use the Senior's Centre as a warming station for the homeless population. In addition, I learn about a decision to carelessly place a port-a-potty in the parking lot for washroom use, even though the facilities indoors are operational.

I struggle with understanding why any of these decisions were made, especially without input from the people who live here. This decision would not be made in other wealthier neighborhoods, why do we get more issues added, when drug addiction and homelessness are a city-wide issue concerning everyone. From the moment it was put there, it has had been extreme drug use inside and out in the parking lot around the port-a-potty. All hours of the day people convene around this disgusting 'solution' without any regard for anyone in the area. Now, no matter where it is located the drug use continues. My neighbours have been diligently cleaning up garbage, and bins upon bins of dirty needles and other drug paraphernalia, putting themselves at risk, not only from dirty needles, but possible covid contraction.

There are 3 schools on this stretch of Trafalgar alone, and while it was hard enough to try and do something about the speeding in this area, you now have given us this unsafe situation. There are people sleeping in garden beds, and laying in the parking lot, police and paramedics have been called out to this location numerous times, all while the children in this area look on. There is open drug use our school aged children are walking past every day, especially on the way home.

This area already had a problem with needles being found in the streets, and this has only added to our frustration. My son was actually pricked by a used needle, in senior kindergarten, while he was attending Trafalgar public school before this was a warming centre. He had to spend hours in the emergency room, and appointments of bloodwork and needles as a result. Now I'm worried that the children that attend that school still are still in danger of the same thing happening

My car has been shopped through a few times now since January, one time in late February a lot of personal items were actually stolen. I have seen people outside of my bedroom and living room window at night, and items being taken off my front porch and lawn. While gardening, myself and my now 7 year old son are being approached by people, high and asking for money, band-aids, or whatever they need without respecting our distancing space. I feel like a failure as a mother when I have to usher my child inside, because I feel like it's not safe for him to be in our front yard, at home where he should feel safe. I am debating installing a security system, as well and considering gating off my front lawn, at a great cost to myself. This is sad, and I feel like we are being punished for owning a home in an area that we can afford. We work, we pay our taxes, we do most things right and still we are punished.

I am fully aware that homelessness, poverty and drug addiction is a real challenge that concerns everyone in the city. I personally do not know what the answer to this crisis is, because I don't, and I'm not sure if there is a one size suits all solution. What I can say is that putting a port-a-potty, and a warming centre, which serves as an unsupervised unsafe injection site is not the answer, in fact, it is incredibly irresponsible, even for the people who use it. I am hoping and trusting that as a committee, the decision is made to relocate to a different area. I sincerely hope something is done soon to help ease our concerns, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Janice Baskey  
99 Smith Street