

September 19, 2021

London City Council
300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON
N6B 1Z2

Attn: Community and Protective Services Committee
Re: Graphic Anti-Abortion Billboards and Pamphlets

Good afternoon Councilors,

I am contacting you today on behalf of the Viewer Discretion Legislation Coalition. Please see included in this email a link to compilation of video recordings made by Londoners over the last year. These recordings show the various reactions of community members to the graphic displays that have been occurring across the city.

Standing on the side of the road with these extremely graphic and triggering billboards poses a serious danger to the community. We have seen numerous instances of women needing to pull their vehicles over as they were sent into panic attacks due to the violent and gruesome images being shoved into their line of sight. We have seen vehicles stopped mid-intersection, distracted by the horrific display. We have seen drivers get angry and speed past erratically, possibly posing a danger to others on the road and the sign holders themselves. We have seen children walk by with their hands covering their eyes out of fear of the images being shown. Additionally, they target schools with their displays, protesting nearby and attempting to engage young and impressionable students. This is not an issue to which the council can turn a blind eye.

Holding these signs out in the community doesn't only pose a danger to drivers, but to those holding the signs as well. It can be seen in the video that Londoners are getting angry and frustrated about these displays; violent altercations with passers-by are not uncommon. We at the VDLC have a strict non-violence policy and do not condone any kind of violent behaviour. This footage is being presented only to show how seriously individuals are being affected. The people displaying the signs do not care about adverse reactions from the community. They revel in their martyrdom and, as it can be heard in the video, they do not care about the wellbeing of our living, breathing children.

We ask that city council take action and enact bylaws to limit how and where these signs can be displayed. This is not our first time making this request, but we have now decided to include the video so the full gravity of the situation can be seen. Please help make real change.

Respectfully,

The VDLC