

TO: Mayor Ed Holder, London City Councillors

FROM: Deanna Ronson

RE: 7th Meeting of City Council, May 3, 2022, Item 6.5 "Graphic" Flyer Deliveries to Residential Properties

Once again, the issue of a graphic flyer by-law is before Council.

It has now been a year and a half since I delivered a petition signed by 5k+ people (4k+ from London and area) to the Community and Protective Services Committee, calling for a ban on the delivery of flyers containing graphic images.

Council had the opportunity to ban these flyers at its March 22, 2022 meeting. Instead, the proposed by-law was sent back to City Staff for a third time.

My colleagues, Joyce Arthur (Executive Director, Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada), Prof. Sam Trosow (Western University) and I believe that City Staff have finally come back with a draft by-law that should satisfy everyone.

While we had hoped for a complete ban, we are not opposed to the delivery of graphic flyers in “fully concealed within a sealed envelope or package” with the envelope/package marked with a warning label (Appendix “A” Bill No. 138, 2022).

This option still allows the CCBR to deliver its flyers and also gives residents the opportunity to throw said unopened envelope into the trash without being traumatized by the images of alleged aborted fetuses that this organization loves to use in its hate propaganda.

The Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, states that municipalities have “broad authority” to “provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public.” The Act also states, that “a single-tier municipality may pass by-laws respecting the following matters: . . . 6. Health, safety and well-being of persons. . . . 8. Protection of persons and property” (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25>).

Council has received substantial evidence from Londoners that the unregulated delivery of graphic, unsolicited flyers has caused demonstrable harm.

We know that the City has the ability to act on this issue and the legal standing to do so. It is my hope that Council will vote to approve Appendix “A” Bill No. 138, 2022.

Thank you all for your time and commitment to this important issue that impacts thousands of Londoners. It's been a long road and I am hopeful for a successful resolution at Council.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, Member
Former Director of Pro-choice London
Resident of London, Ontario