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Providing counselling, advocacy, and support for abused women.

November 21, 2022

Community and Protective Services Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario N6A 4L9

To Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

Re: Letter of Support of Renaming Paul Haggis Park

The London Abused Women's Centre is supportive of renaming Paul Haggis Park located in Ward 12 at 2875 Bateman Trail and that all related references should be removed from the City of London correspondence including the website.

The London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC), provides long term, woman-centered, trauma-informed counselling, advocacy, and support to women and girls over the age of 12 who have been abused by an intimate partner, sexually exploited, trafficked, harassed, assaulted and/or subjected to non-state torture. LAWC is a feminist organization that supports and advocates for personal, social, and systemic change directed at ending male violence against women.

This month, Paul Haggis was ordered to pay an amount totaling \$10 million US dollars in damages in a rape civil lawsuit.

It takes an enormous amount of courage for women and girls who are being abused, assaulted, exploited, or trafficked to come forward to seek help, let alone report what happened to them to the police.

There is a need for proactive support for the prevention of male violence against women and girls in all its forms. Women and girls in this community deserve better.

Again, the London Abused Women's Centre is supportive of renaming Paul Haggis Park. The City of London has made a commitment to create a safe London for women and girls which made London the first city in all of Canada to make this a strategic priority. Women and girls need to know that they are not alone, and the City of London will support them.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dunn
Executive Director

cc: Elizabeth Pelozo, City Councillor Ward 12
Shawn Lewis, Deputy Mayor
Josh Morgan, Mayor