



Stephen Williams
Chief of Police

February 17, 2023

Corporation of the City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON N6B 1Z2

Mayor Morgan and Councillors:

RE: Whole of Community System Response

Members of Council are well aware of the crisis of health and homelessness in our City. On a daily basis, members of the London Police Service witness first-hand the challenges faced by those with unstable or no housing, sometimes aggravated by other challenges such as addiction and mental health crises. To say the situation is dire would be an understatement.

As one of the few agencies that are able to respond on a 24/7 basis to persons in need of assistance, we recognize that police are not always the appropriate response and are not equipped to address underlying issues.

Starting in November 2022 and into 2023 I was pleased to participate in a series of health and homeless summits involving other municipal leaders and representatives from numerous social service agencies including frontline staff who deal directly with our vulnerable populations. The summits were focused on listening to subject matter experts including those with lived experience, learning about services currently offered, and identifying gaps in service and barriers to the provision of effective supports. There is widespread consensus that the current system is not working and swift and decisive action at the community level is necessary to more appropriately and effectively serve those in need. Better communication and coordination is required between all service agencies, across sectors and across disciplines, including the police.

Please accept this letter of support for London's Whole of Community System Response. The goal of the response is to provide timely, appropriate and sustained support that is people-centric and housing-centric.

The Whole of Community System Response requires your support. In my three decades of policing I have not witnessed anything like the momentum and will to effect change as that which emerged from the summits. I urge you to support the Whole of Community System Response and the development of an appropriate service delivery model, including appropriate funding, that will move ideas into action. We at the London

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Police Service will do our part in working with all partners, across sectors, to implement such a model. A health-centric and housing-centric response will lead to better outcomes for those in need and less need for police involvement.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Williams", followed by a short horizontal line.

Stephen Williams, M.O.M.

Chief of Police

London Police Service