



February 23, 2023

City of London
Strategic Priorities and Policies Committee
City Hall
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON, N6A 4L9

Dear Strategic Priorities and Policies Committee,

Subject: Health and Homeless - Whole of Community System Response

Downtown London has been pleased to participate in the Health and Homeless Summits and we thank City staff for including businesses to share in these important conversations. Never have our organization and members been engaged with so many individuals and organizations from across the community to address the ever-growing crisis – from community social services, healthcare, education, emergency services, land and housing development, City of London staff, and other members of the local business and economic development sectors. It has been truly transformational and something to be proud of as our community progresses towards breaking down silos and barriers.

We acknowledge that we all have an important role to play in the response and solutions of this community crisis and the “whole of community” approach that is required. Our members often experience the impacts of this crisis, without the resources and knowledge they need to help and resolve issues. Through our participation in this process, we are hopeful and encouraged with the level of commitment in our community to establish better approaches, tools, and support that will lead to more effective, coordinated, and timely responses for those who need to be better served by this system.

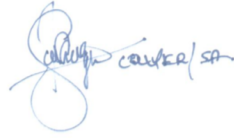
Downtown London strongly urges the SPPC and City Council to act in favour of this work, as details of the community plan’s execution become available, utilizing the whole of community system response to address the health and homeless crisis in London.

Ultimately, this is about saving lives, minimizing suffering, and building up our city from a social, economic development and cultural perspective. Our city will not achieve its true economic or quality of life potential if housing, health, wellness, and safety issues in our community are not prioritized through improved coordination, collaboration, and longer-term planning of this system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Maly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Maly
Downtown London Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Collyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Collyer
LDBA Board Chair