

February 23, 2023

**Attention: Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC)**

Attention: Mayor J. Morgan and Councillors H. McAlister, S. Lewis, P. Cuddy, S. Stevenson, J. Pribil, S. Trosow, C. Rahman, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Franke, E. Peloza, D. Ferreira, S. Hillie

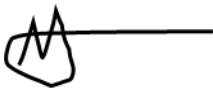
I am writing this letter on behalf of VHA Home Healthcare Extreme Cleaning and Hoarding Support Programs in support of the Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response.

As a non-profit homelessness prevention program that has been in London for over 10 years, we agree that something needs to change, that housing is a fundamental human right and without housing we see poor health outcomes with death at its worst. These unprecedented, unnecessary, and completely avoidable deaths have passed 200 in the last 3 years. Hundreds of Londoners passing away on the streets, in parks and in extreme weather conditions, all preventable. We feel strongly that there is no better time than now to have a transformational change across all sectors. As a London born resident, front line worker and community member with a personal connection to the homelessness issue here I am eager to help where I can. Our organization will support the Community Response in any way that we can.

Our program will continue to focus on prevention, advocacy and keeping those at risk for homelessness to remain housed and out of the homelessness continuum. We agree wholeheartedly that the priority is in Timely and Direct Pathways to Housing by using the “no wrong door” approach which reduces barriers to those that are homeless or precariously housed. We are excited to see the Network of Hubs that will be across the city to meet people where they are at, to reduce stigma and provide 24/7 access to what these vulnerable people require. We were awestruck during the State of the City address when an unrestricted \$25 Million Dollar donation was seeded to start the Health and Homelessness Fund for Change with an additional \$5 Million matching dollars for those who donate. It is encouraging to see so many people come together for the same cause. London is unique and well positioned to be a leader in this response and will demonstrate to the country how a city can make a major shift and transformative change.

VHA Extreme Cleaning and Hoarding Support Program will continue to support the community by preventing evictions and subsequent homelessness among those that are already experiencing chronic health issues, stigma, discrimination, poverty, and other vulnerabilities. We know that evicted adults have higher all-cause mortality. We look forward to seeing the positive changes coming from this historic community response.

Kind regards,



Melissa Davis  
Supervisor – Community Support Program - Extreme Cleaning and Hoarding Support (London)  
VHA Home Healthcare