

Economic and Community Development

From: Melody Grant <MeGrant@srchc.com>
Sent: December 6, 2020 10:58 PM
To: Economic and Community Development
Subject: Written deputation- Dec 7

Categories: Communication

Hello,

I would like to submit a written copy of my deputation for tomorrow's meeting.

December 7, 2020

Hello, my name is Melody Grant, from Moss Park OPS at Queen and Sherbourne. I come to you today as an ally for change and resident of East Toronto.

From October 2020 to November 29th Moss Park has made 77 calls to Central Intake, with only 21 of those calls resulting in available shelter space. Of those 21 calls only 14 were accepted as meeting the needs of the folks we serve. This means 63 times folks were left out in the cold with no where to go. No drop in, no emergency respite, not even a coffee shop or Peter street to await an available shelter space.

On November 25th 2020 I assisted a woman with a broken leg to call Central Intake 5 times between 12pm and 9pm. Every time we called there was no space. This woman had to go out in single digit temperatures to wander the street alone at incredibly high risk of violence which she has experienced repeatedly due to the lack of safe space in a city where we pride ourselves on liberal values.

This is but one example of hundreds which I have sadly come to expect, and further enables feelings of mistrust and lack of faith in a system which prioritizes punitive systems over basic human rights. We fund the dismantling of communities through legal systems because they showcase the systemic inequities which plague all factors of life rather than give viable options which will enable them to thrive.

I have spent over ten years in the sector working outreach, management and frontline in women's drop in spaces, crisis services and OPS. Each year has produced a similar theme of complex barriers to safe space with a highly underfunded shelter system which does not meet the needs of populations the city highlights as priority. In order to safely move forward avoiding further death and displacement I echo the demands put forth today:

1. An immediate moratorium on forced evictions of encampments across Toronto and allow all temporary shelters to remain in City parks.
2. Open at least 2,000 new shelter-hotel rooms in the next 4 months. This is the only way people have a safe

option of leaving encampments given that shelters are currently full.

All sites must have overdose prevention services and support on-site that is provided by experienced harm-reduction staff.

Half of the sites must be located in the downtown core.

3. Provide services to people in encampments.

- Provide \$1 million to community agencies to distribute survival supplies and fire safety equipment to encamped individuals.

Ensure people have access to indoor facilities twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week – including access to winterized bathrooms and showers in encampments adjacent to City sites

Thank you,

Melody Grant (She/her)

Community Health Worker- Consumption Treatment Services

South Riverdale Community Health Centre

We at South Riverdale Community Health Centre acknowledge that we work and live on Treaty 13 territory which was established between the Mississauga's of Credit River of the Anishinaabek Nation and the British Crown. We further acknowledge that we are surrounded by treaty 13a, treaty 20 also known as the Williams treaty and treaty 19. We acknowledge the Wendat and Haudenosaunee people that also occupied this territory. This territory is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant. This covenant was created between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabek including allied nations to peaceably share and protect the resources around the Great Lakes. South Riverdale Community Health Centre acknowledges that we are all treaty people. We shall honour and respect the past in order to move forward carrying the visions of our ancestors. Miigwech, Niá:wen -Thank you. All my relations~

This e-mail is intended only for the named recipient(s) and may contain confidential, personal and/or health information (information which may be subject to legal restrictions on use, retention and/or disclosure). No waiver of confidence is intended by virtue of communication via the internet. Any review or distribution by anyone other than the person(s) for whom it was originally intended is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender and destroy all copies.

P Please consider the environment before printing this email