

From: [Diane Chester](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Cc: [premier@ontario.ca](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [Chris Glover-CO](#); [Gordon Tanner](#); [Kate Bassil](#); [Paul Johnson \(City Manager\)](#); [nguyen@parl.gc.ca](#)
Subject: [External Sender] EC22.3 — Please post my letter as a web link
Date: July 7, 2025 10:29:25 PM

Senior City of Toronto Staff, Mayor Chow, and City Council,

Outraged Opposition to the Reckless Siting of a 24-hour Emergency Shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West — Demand for Full Public Inquiry

I am writing to express my **fury and absolute opposition** to the City's decision to dangerously force a **24-hour emergency shelter program** at **629 Adelaide Street West** — a decision made **in secret**, under **false pretences**, and with **zero transparency, zero accountability, and zero public genuine consultation**.

The City's own 2024 Street Needs Assessment just released again confirms what we all know:

- **44%** of homeless people surveyed report **serious mental health challenges**
- **25%** surveyed report **substance use issues**

And yet you have decided to place this high-risk, high-needs facility in the **middle of a residential neighbourhood**, surrounded by **homes, laneways, elementary schools, and small businesses** — with **no public safety plan** in place — two blocks from Queen and Bathurst Street where there is negligent and significant social chaos — that will move into the very heart of our neighbourhood.

This shelter will be **distributing needles, pipes, and drug-use paraphernalia within metres of children and homes**. This isn't just incompetence — it is **gross negligence** and a **flagrant disregard** for neighbourhood safety.

To make matters even more outrageous, the operator you've chosen — **St. Felix Centre** — has **no experience running a 24/7 shelter of this size, risk level, or complexity**. This is a **disaster waiting to happen**, engineered by a City that refuses to engage with residents.

The City claims this facility will open on **July 14, 2025**, yet job ads for "**Shelter Support - Relief**" staff were just posted, listing a **start date of August 8, 2025**. Required qualifications? A single year of experience and, unbelievably, a willingness to "**witness drug use (intravenous, nasal, and oral)**" and "**monitor the environment for safety**." In the heart of a family-oriented residential neighbourhood.

Let me be absolutely clear:

- Drug use on the shelter property at 629 Adelaide Street West is illegal.
- **629 Adelaide has NO outdoor space.**
- It is surrounded on all sides by homes, laneways, parking lots, and is 54 METRES from a school.

The entire process reeks of **backroom politics, cover-ups**, and a disturbing lack of respect for democratic process. It raises urgent and serious questions:

- What criteria were used to select this site?
- Is the site zoning even legal?
- Who made this decision, and based on what risk assessments?
- What are the full **financial costs**, and who signed off on them?
- What consideration — if any — was given to **public safety, school proximity, and the rights of**

neighbourhood residents?

- What exactly is the threshold of social chaos you deem “acceptable” for a neighbourhood for your poorly planned projects?

We deserve answers.

I am calling for a **FULL PUBLIC INQUIRY** into the siting of this shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West. This inquiry must be **independent, transparent, and accountable**, and must address:

1. All costs related to acquisition, renovation, staffing, and operations;
2. The selection criteria and decision-making process used by City staff and Council;
3. The operational qualifications (or lack thereof) of **St. Felix Centre**;
4. All communications, internal documents, and consultation records;
5. The complete absence of meaningful public consultation and the impact on community safety.

This shelter is a **severe breach of public trust**. This is a **city-sanctioned assault on a safe, established neighbourhood**. You are putting seniors, children, our neighbourhood, at risk. Until this plan is halted and a full inquiry is launched, we will continue to **organize, speak out, and fight back — loudly, publicly, and relentlessly**.

We are not going away. We will save our neighbourhood from the City of Toronto's recklessness.

Sincerely,

Diane Chester
Niagara Neighbours for Community Safety