

**From:** [Jenna Chadwick](#)  
**To:** [Economic and Community Development](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Johnson \(City Manager\)](#); [Kate Bassil](#); [Gordon Tanner](#); [CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca); [chi.nguyen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chi.nguyen@parl.gc.ca); [Mayor Chow](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] EC22.3 - Please post my letter as a web link  
**Date:** July 8, 2025 3:23:43 PM

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To: Senior City of Toronto Staff, Mayor Olivia Chow, and Members of City Council  
Re: Deep Concern Regarding the Proposed 24-Hour Emergency Shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West — Request for Immediate Review and Public Accountability

Dear Mayor Chow, Members of Council, and City Staff,

As a deeply invested parent and long-time resident of the area, I am writing to express my serious concern and strong opposition to the decision to locate a 24-hour emergency shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West. While I fully support compassionate, well-planned responses to the housing crisis in our city, the process and circumstances surrounding this decision raise troubling questions about transparency, safety, and due diligence.

According to the City's own 2024 Street Needs Assessment:

- 44% of individuals experiencing homelessness report significant mental health challenges
- 25% report substance use issues

Given these realities, placing a high-needs facility in the middle of a densely populated residential neighbourhood - just metres from homes, laneways, small businesses, and an elementary school (without a clearly communicated public safety plan) is deeply concerning. Residents deserve to understand how such a complex site will be operated and secured, especially so close to young families and vulnerable community members.

Additionally, the operator selected, St. Felix Centre, appears to have limited experience managing 24/7 shelters of this scope and complexity. Community confidence in the success and safety of this project relies on proven operational capacity, not assumptions or rushed preparations. The recent job postings for relief staff starting in August, after a planned mid-July opening, only heighten concerns about readiness and oversight.

We are also troubled by the lack of public engagement and transparency. To date, there has been no meaningful consultation with the surrounding community, nor a clear explanation of:

- How this location was selected and assessed for suitability
- Whether proper zoning and safety evaluations were conducted
- What risk mitigation measures are in place, especially in the absence of on-site outdoor space
- How families, children, schools, and small businesses were factored into planning

We are asking respectfully but urgently, for a full public inquiry into this decision. The inquiry should be independent, transparent, and accountable to residents, and address:

1. The criteria and process used to select 629 Adelaide Street West
2. All costs associated with acquisition, renovations, staffing, and long-term operations
3. The qualifications and capacity of St. Felix Centre to run this shelter

4. A detailed review of community consultation efforts and outcomes

5. Safety planning and public health measures proposed or currently lacking

We believe strongly in a city where vulnerable populations are treated with dignity, and where neighbourhoods are treated as partners, not obstacles. We want solutions that are safe, effective, and sustainable for both shelter residents and the surrounding community.

We urge you to pause the current plans for 629 Adelaide Street West and commit to a thorough, open process moving forward. Our community is not opposed to helping. We are opposed to being excluded from decisions that deeply affect us, and to having critical safety concerns dismissed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome an open conversation and are prepared to work constructively toward solutions that uphold both compassion and community well-being.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Chadwick  
Concerned Parent & Neighbourhood Resident