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To: [Councillor Malik](#); [Mayor Chow](#); chi.nguyen@toronto.ca; [Glover-CO, Chris](#); [Gordon Tanner](#); [Kate Bassil](#); [Paul Johnson \(City Manager\)](#); [Economic and Community Development](#); premier@ontario.ca
Subject: [External Sender] EC22.3 — Please post my letter as a web link
Date: July 8, 2025 6:23:59 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. We are looking forward to defeating Malik and Chow in the next election.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Chumik