

**From:** [Ksenya Kiebusinski](#)  
**To:** [Economic and Community Development](#)  
**Cc:** [premier@ontario.ca](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [chi.nguyen@toronto.ca](#); [CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca](#); [Gordon Tanner](#); [Kate Bassil](#); [Paul Johnson \(City Manager\)](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] EC22.3 — Please post my letter as a web link  
**Date:** July 8, 2025 12:54:14 PM

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

I am writing to add my voice expressing opposition to the City's decision to dangerously force a **24-hour emergency shelter program at 629 Adelaide Street West** into the heart of our neighbourhood.

I have lived in this area for 19 years. Like many other neighbours, I do not come from generational wealth. I lack a car and yard (or cottage), and rely on public ways and public parks to run household errands and to relax in green spaces. The siting of 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 -- endangers the safety of our community, especially children who attend these schools and seniors who visit the local businesses and church.

Since about 2018 or so, it has become increasingly unsafe to walk along Bathurst Street, stretching from Lake Shore Boulevard to Queen Street West, as more and more people with serious substance use issues and/or with serious mental health challenges congregate in doorways or take over parks to inject drugs, slumber or pass out on sidewalks (it is left up to concerned passersby to check on whether they are dead or alive and to call ambulances), panhandle aggressively in front of local businesses and residences, and physically assault pedestrians (I have witnessed this and been a victim myself, shoved into Adelaide Street when I would not hand over my groceries to the unhoused aggressor).

Furthermore, the placement of the emergency shelter at **629 Adelaide Street West** was done with no meaningful and engaged input from local residents, including those at 700 King Street West where I reside. Our driveway, backdoor, and loading dock are 100 metres away. How is it possible that this constituency numbering over 200 residents was not contacted or consulted?

This lack of consultation and communication by elected public officials is appalling, even more so as we are learning from our research (not from information shared with us by City Council) that the shelter will be **distributing needles, pipes, and drug-use paraphernalia within metres of school children and homes**. Not only that but that staff will be called upon to "**witness drug use (intravenous, nasal, and oral)**" and "**monitor the environment for safety.**"

This normalization of drug use and potential violence is not just bureaucratic incompetence — it is **gross negligence** and a **flagrant disregard** for neighbourhood safety. Addiction changes a person's behavior and can make them dangerous sometimes. It also makes them incredibly vulnerable to harm. This is tragic, and it is reasonable that society should want to minimize these situations. We care about what happens in our community.

I, together with many neighbours, want full accountability by the City. We call 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:

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

This shelter is 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.

Sincerely,

Ksenya Kiebuzinski  
700 King Street West