

**From:** [Nathan Marchio](#)  
**To:** [Economic and Community Development](#)  
**Cc:** [premier@ontario.ca](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [chi.nguyen@parl.gc.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 8:33:05 PM

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

We are continuing to express our significant fear of the reckless siting of a 24-hour emergency shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West

I am writing to express our neighbourhood's absolute disappointment at 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 or concern.

The City's own 2024 Street Needs Assessment just released again confirms what we're all very concerned of:

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

And yet the City has 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 is gross negligence and undoubtedly a flagrant disregard for the safety of the residents of Toronto.**

To make matters even more concerning, the operator you've chosen — St. Felix Centre — has no experience running a 24/7 shelter of this size, risk level, or complexity.

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. The required qualifications raise even more concerns. A single year of experience and 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.

Our biggest concerns:

- 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.

It raises urgent and serious questions that have yet to be answered:

- 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 who want to feel safe in their own community?
- What exactly is the threshold of social chaos you deem “acceptable” for a neighbourhood in which this is about to be placed in? What are the safety plans?

We are begging for answers.

This shelter is a severe breach of public trust. This will be the destruction of a safe, established neighbourhood. You are putting seniors, children, our neighbourhood, at risk. Until this plan is re-considered and a full inquiry is launched, we will continue to organize, speak out, and fight back — loudly, publicly, and relentlessly.

We are begging for our voices to be heard and for a solution to be made.