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To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Cc: [premier@ontario.ca](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [chi.nguyen@toronto.ca](#); [CGlover-OP@ndp.on.ca](#); [Gordon Tanner](#); [Portugal Square Adelaide West](#); [Glover-CO, Chris](#); [Kate Bassil](#); [Paul Johnson \(City Manager\)](#)
Subject: [External Sender] EC22.3 — Please post my letter as a web link
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Senior City of Toronto Staff, Mayor Chow, and City Council,

CALL FOR FULL PUBLIC INQUIRY into the Siting of 24-hour Emergency Shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West.

Our community has been trying for 2 full years to convey valid concerns with the site selection and its implications for our community, but we have been treated as if our needs do not matter, as if our opinions do not matter, as if we have no right to safety where we live and work.

The third-party consultant who handled public engagement went through the motions but did not deliver what was promised. We have repeatedly asked for information or clarification of the planning details but have either been brushed off or ignored. We have yet to see a Community Safety Plan or anything else pertaining to the operation of the site (ie. Operating Agreement with St. Felix Centre, Waste Management Plan, Traffic Management Plan, Pedestrian Safety Plan). The City is obfuscating by claiming to have answered all of our questions when in fact very few of our questions have been answered. We have been given no choice but to resort to FOI requests to get information from the City which should have been shared freely with us as of right. It is infuriating to be treated with such contempt and disrespect.

ALL COUNCILLORS need to be aware that (1) the site selection for 629 Adelaide Street West was flawed from the very beginning; (2) the zoning does not allow a shelter to be located at 629 Adelaide Street West; (3) planning rules and regulations have been bent, broken or simply ignored, in order to push through a flawed project plan and avoid Committee of Adjustment (where we would have the right and opportunity to provide our feedback); (4) due process has not been followed with regard to community consultation and sharing of critical information; (5) the overall project has been poorly planned and executed resulting in mistakes, delays, and exorbitant and unjustifiable costs.

ALL COUNCILLORS need to visit the site and see what we are talking about. The site is surrounded on four sides by public sidewalks, lanes and right-of-ways. Securing the site and protecting the guests and surrounding neighbours is almost impossible, given the limitations of the property. THERE IS NO EXTERIOR SPACE FOR GUESTS -- absolutely nothing between the building and the public and private spaces surrounding it. By choosing to situate a shelter in this unsuitable and awkward location, the City is effectively taking over a small secluded area

and putting the residents at significant risk. The resultant chaos could destroy what is currently a safe and liveable family neighbourhood.

The City's own 2024 Street Needs Assessment confirms the risk: 44% of shelter guests could have serious mental health issues while 25% could have serious substance use issues. Drugs and alcohol will be consumed in public spaces around the shelter. Drug dealers will inevitably come to service demand. Erratic and threatening behaviour, including random violence, will increase in the area with people coming and going from the facility at all hours of the day and night.

This shelter is a high-risk high-needs facility that will be distributing needles, pipes, and drug-use paraphernalia, within metres of children and homes and a school. It appears, from recent job descriptions posted by St. Felix for "Shelter Support-Relief" staff that "harm reduction" could include *the witnessing of drug use (intravenous, nasal, and oral) and monitoring of the environment for safety* – which calls into question assurances we managed to get from St. Felix that there would be no consumption on-site.

If there is some loop-hole which somehow allows a de-facto consumption site at 629, no-one has bothered informing us – which wouldn't come as a surprise after what we have been through over the past 2 years. The sad truth is that no-one seems to really care about community safety – that is OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY.

Please stop torturing our community. We are tired of the secrecy and bad faith dealing which serves no-one's best interests.

I hereby call on the City of Toronto to postpone the opening pending completion of a FULL PUBLIC INQUIRY into the siting of the shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West and all the other careless decisions that have followed. There are many questions that need to be answered and an inquiry is the only way to recover public trust.

Sincerely,
Jill Patrick