



Dear Council Members,

Toronto is a richly diverse and heterogeneous city, with each neighbourhood presenting its own unique opportunities and challenges — especially when it comes to the sensitive matter of shelter placement. Yet time and again, we've seen the consequences of shelters being hastily located without meaningful public consultation or due consideration of local context

Take, for example, the situation at 629 Adelaide West. Residents were given no advance notice, no consultation, and no opportunity to voice their concerns before a shelter was installed just steps from an elementary school. A similar scenario unfolded at 81 Elizabeth Street — directly behind City Hall. The adjacent condominium has devolved into a state of near-constant conflict, and now there are serious rumblings of legal and civic mobilization against the City and TSSS.

This is not NIMBYism. I myself live near a shelter in Toronto Centre. I support it because the location is appropriate — there are no schools nearby, and the shelter was established before I moved into the area. That's the key: location matters.

Applying a blanket, one-size-fits-all approach to shelter placement dishonours the distinct character and concerns of Toronto's communities. A proposal in Liberty Village would differ from one in Mimico — as it should. Each neighbourhood has its own needs, risks, and social dynamics. That's why public consultation must be conducted on a *case-by-case* basis.

When shelters are arbitrarily imposed on communities, without local input or engagement, it breeds mistrust, division, and alienation. Council must do better.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the motion brought forward by Councillors Pasternak and Kandavel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Tate", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Tate
Executive Director, IntegrityTO
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