



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

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February 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

My name is The Rev. John Borthwick, minister of St. Andrew's Guelph and long-time champion of ending homelessness, writing in support of the zoning by-law amendment for permanent supportive housing located at 721 Woolwich Street.

Our community has a plan to end homelessness by 2023. Creating permanent supportive housing for those who need it most is an essential part of making this happen. Permanent supportive housing is a cost-effective solution that is proven to improve people lives, increase health and wellbeing, and support a stronger community as a result. When everyone in our community has a safe and affordable place to call home our whole community benefits.

I have sat in too many rooms and around too many tables in this City talking about strategies to end homelessness in the coming years. It isn't a matter of not knowing what needs to be done – we have heard from so many experts and persons with lived experience and I can say without reservation that we know what we need in our City to end homelessness. Permanent Supportive Housing is the answer across the board to address the complex needs of our citizens who find housing challenging. So now it all comes down to ACTION. We need to act now if we are to meet our goal – we can't wait any longer... our hard to house citizens need those who can act to do so without any further delay.

I believe that everyone should have a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home, and access to supports to make that possible. I encourage City Council to approve this amendment and help put an end to homelessness in our community.

Thank you,

Rev. John Borthwick
Minister | St. Andrew's Guelph