

January 31, 2021

Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 7T1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am Louise Callaghan and I reside at [REDACTED] Marilyn Drive in Guelph. I support the concept of supportive housing for the homeless and the provision of assistance to homeless and disabled individuals. Regarding the rezoning I have several important concerns. It is important for the citizens of Guelph to understand that we the neighbours on Marilyn Drive are well aware of the plight of the homeless. Our concerns and fears of this project lie in the many years (since 1986 and the use of the motel as an emergency shelter) of police and ambulance calls, alcohol, addiction and mental health behaviours. This has had a negative impact on the neighbourhood and has created a jaded perception going forward.

1. My concerns are mainly regarding safety for the seniors in the neighbourhood, for families entering Riverside Park via Marilyn Drive and about the presence of drug dealers and/or drug paraphernalia in the neighbourhood. In the Planning Justification Report, page 33, it talks about a Complete and Healthy Community which I see as more of a long term goal. In creating a Complete, Healthy and Safe Community it will take years of transition and police and ambulance calls with this project. Case in point is Lucy's Place, which is located in a mainly commercialized area in Barrie. In their first year post construction with services in place there were 43, 911 calls needed for 12 units, and shortly thereafter 2 units were burned.

2. Another concern I have is related to the Mixed-Use Zone. I have read the Planning Justification Report in it's entirety (no small feat) and my concern is that the city currently does not have a mixed-use zone created. According to the report, " It is anticipated that the land may be further rezoned by the City Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw review in order to bring the lands into closer conformity with the Mixed-Use Corridor designation in the Official Plan." According to the Report, "zoning proposed conforms with the current Official Plan designation and it is an interim solution till the city determines the full list of additional uses that could be appropriate for the subject lands and other properties with Mixed-Use Corridor designation." Another zone change in the future with unknown additional uses concerns me. When would these zone changes be made and what are the implications for the residents in the area?

3. Another concern I have is for the safety of seniors exposed to an increase of used needles and to drug dealers in the area. I believe it is naive to think that there will be no issues evolving from this project. I would hate to have residents in the area calling City hall, Mental Health or Addiction Centres only to be told, "This is not our Jurisdiction!" Of course the police can be called but really if it isn't an urgent call, then it really isn't a police matter. Who would we turn to? I am asking for assistance to help the neighbourhood as we go forward.

Two suggestions: First, it was suggested to me that we might consider getting a report on the number of drug charges, criminal investigations and charges laid in a radius of 1.5 km around this project over the last 2 years. This way we would have a baseline of any negative impact on the area as time goes by.

Secondly, if the project does go forward, perhaps having a round table of various service partners, a city councillor and a couple of local residents to meet occasionally to help resolve any issues. And I certainly hope that there would be no consideration given to having a safe-site at the Parkview location which would be a major concern for the neighbourhood.

4. And finally, I had an opportunity to watch the virtual Open House regarding this project which was held on Tuesday, January 26th. It was informative and helpful. But I was quite surprised to hear that the estimated total cost for this project is \$8.6 million. I understand that this is for the capital and operational costs. It would be helpful to have more transparency on the long range estimates of what the year over year costs are going to be to house just 32 residents at the Parkview location.

Those are all my concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Louise Callaghan