



February 5, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

My name is Glenna Banda and I am the Executive Director of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin, and a Ward 2 resident, writing in support of the zoning by-law amendment for permanent supportive housing located at 721 Woolwich Street.

United Way strives to meet existing and emerging social needs in order to improve lives and build community. We firmly believe everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home. That is why United Way endorses the establishment of Permanent Supportive Housing. It is an evidenced-based and cost-effective solution for people who are chronically homeless and/or highly vulnerable because of long-term disabilities.

Along with endorsing the project, we are committed to mobilizing community support to fund the renovations, services and long-term sustainability of 721 Woolwich Street.

The pandemic has brought inequity to the forefront in our community. Many are in a place of privilege having had little impact to their daily lives while others have struggled like never before. As a resident of Ward 2, I welcome this project, as a place for people to call home. I believe that now is the time for us to step up and foster a sense of belonging and support, and stop stigmatizing residents who are struggling.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenna Banda".

Glenna Banda
Executive Director