

RICK McRONALD

Edwin Street · Guelph, Ontario · [REDACTED]

March 4, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

My name is Rick McDonald and I am a citizen of Guelph who is concerned about homelessness and the lack of affordable and supportive housing in my community. I volunteer at Chalmers Community Services Centre and participate actively in my church's local outreach programs (supporting Royal City Mission and The Drop In Centre and other agencies). I strongly support the zoning by-law amendment for permanent supportive housing located at 85 & 89 Willow Rd.

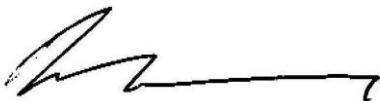
Our community has a plan to end homelessness by 2023. Creating permanent supportive housing for those who need it most is an essential part of making this happen. Permanent supportive housing is a cost-effective solution that is proven to improve people lives, increase health and wellbeing, and support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

Through my involvement in the activities mentioned above, I have met some of the people who will benefit from permanent supportive housing. I chose to volunteer at Chalmers in part because I relate to their "Respect and Dignity for All" motto. In my 8 years of volunteering at Chalmers I have served food items to those who cannot afford to buy it and/or who cannot take certain items because they have no place to store or prepare it. Some of these folks live in encampments around our city and are periodically uprooted – losing their place and their meagre possessions.

The need for PSH is clear and it isn't something new. What is new is what the pandemic has taught us; suddenly, we found a way to house these members of our community! We also have 3 strong proposals coming forward to address the problem on an ongoing basis. The Parkview Motel proposal is one of them and if approved, could be up and running sooner than other developments. Please don't let this opportunity pass!

I believe that everyone should have a safe, permanent and affordable place to call home, and access to necessary 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,



Rick McDonald