



July 7, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

Re. Application to rezone 65 Delhi St.

This letter is provided to Guelph City Council in support of changing the zoning for 65 Delhi from park to residential.

The Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, a coalition of over 30 community organizations who share a mission to prevent and address local substance use issues, has been very grateful for the role that you have played in starting new Permanent Supportive Housing projects in our community over the last 12 months. We now request that the remarkable progress that has occurred to meet the needs of many of Guelph's most vulnerable citizens be extended to recipients of transitional housing by rezoning 65 Delhi Street from park to residential.

65 Delhi Street was previously used as a temporary shelter for youth – a fortuitous precedent because it shows that the neighbourhood has already demonstrated its ability to integrate services of this nature. The building is ideally located for transitional housing because of it is close to transportation and other basic services such as grocery stores. It is in walking distance of acute care services, harm reduction services, County Social Services, Hope House, Royal City Mission and the Drop In, all of which are key supports for people in transitional housing. The fact that the County already owns the building expedites the ability to bring this much-needed service into operation. In addition, housing “best practices” support distributing social housing throughout urban spaces to reduce stigmatization and encourage mixed use.

Thank you for all that you are doing to so that the City of Guelph offers its vulnerable citizens needed supports and services so that they can live with dignity and wellbeing. Substance use challenges are often both a cause and effect of housing instability. The WGDS partners will continue to support City and County services in addressing the complex challenges that occur as a result.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Crowder
Manager, WGDS