

I am writing to express my frustration and opposition to the Mayor's vague 1-2% tax levy that has had zero public mandate, meaningful community consultation and development, and exists to further force the mayor's personal socio-political agenda on the public, specifically mental health and addictions funding.

[Although the mayor has stated publicly this levy is to make up the municipal shortfall from provincial legislation, this does **not** apply to mental health/addictions funding, which has funding streams available from both the province and the federal governments.]

Further, no core policy, including the drug strategy (harm reduction, no treatment facilities) and supportive housing has ever had any public mandate or development process. All of the mental health and addiction policies have come out of either Toward Common Ground, or the mayor's Emergency Task Force on Homelessness and Community Safety. Both were not developed democratically, and actively exclude the general public, and any group that doesn't align with their positions—including taxpayers.

Additionally, the County handles all related social housing/programs, including shelters, so Guelphites have no elected representation on the development of related policies and initiatives.

The city has seen literally millions of dollars of provincial & federal funding allocations and municipal funding towards this without any ability to participate or accountability. And related community safety around these projects for **all people affected, especially the disabled and elderly** is never addressed.

Putting **any** more funding into this under the circumstances, especially when the mayor won't even say how much it will be or what specifically it's for, is bad enough, let alone during a period of unprecedented inflation.

I'd urge new councillors to please stand up for and consider your constituents, and incumbents stop ignoring all the constituents, including taxpayers outside your personal agendas. Taxation without representation is wrong, regardless of the issues.

Thank you for your consideration

jj salmon