

Dear Councillors, Mayor & Staff,

On October 5 I delegated to the Police Service Board. There is a link below if you are interested in watching. I was prompted to delegate after I read a Globe & Mail article about how the Mayor of Oshawa, the Chief of Police and vowed to work together to address the epidemic of substance abuse and homelessness in their city. The Mayor said that the decision he regretted most was putting all of the social services on one street in downtown Oshawa. I am sure that you are all aware of all of the safe injection sites and other social services, particularly the Royal City Mission, that densely populate a small area in your downtown.

It is our 50<sup>th</sup> year in business and the last couple of years have been the most difficult. I fear for the health of all businesses, especially those on Quebec Street. Just anecdotally, last month my daughter and I were exiting the Royal Bank Parking lot when I saw one man on top of another IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, pounding his head into the asphalt as hard as he could. Many vulnerable citizens were on the street watching but were afraid. I tried to get out of the car to disrupt things but my daughter suggested that I bang on the horn. I did so for 30 seconds straight. The perpetrator looked up a few times but kept on pounding as hard as he could. Eventually he was so confused by the sound that he stopped enough so the other guy could limp away. Then this perpetrator walked into the Royal City Mission for food.

I could give you many more examples of the kind of disruption and violence on our street. Many of the people who go to the Mission are afraid and especially hate all of the open drug use. I sit and talk with them on the bench outside of The Bookshelf. I suggest that you do the same.

We need full time community policing downtown. We need a full time mental health worker downtown. It seems like the health worker might become a reality but only for 40 hours a week. Many things happen on Saturdays...when most citizens are trying to enjoy their downtown.

We also need to lessen the load of the Royal City Mission by opening somewhere else outside of the immediate downtown. Although the work they do is very important, they, by their own admission, are stretched with more and more people coming every day. More people means more conflict and the Mission insists that the conflict be taken outside and acted out on the street.

There is a lot more that I could say, but I realize how busy you are and don't want to take up more of your time. Thank you. Barb Minett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtRvylG8l18>