

Regardless of the intent or instructions to staff to take a "human rights based approach", the mere consideration of this motion is inhumane given the context of growing homelessness, lack of shelter space and winter beginning. There is no way to respect human rights while preventing people from sheltering themselves. Recent [court rulings](#) have made this clear. The predictable outcome of such a bylaw would be severe and likely deadly for the most vulnerable among us. Some would call it "[social murder](#)". For shame.

We are facing a housing/shelter crisis/emergency. This I hope we can agree on. Yet we are not acting like it. If homeowners/taxpayers were facing a shelter crisis (due to a flood for example) and they set up tents on city property and winter was coming I would hope the City would convert some existing space into emergency shelter: arenas, community centres, the drill hall or other buildings that are safe to occupy and not being used for essential services. I would hope the City would negotiate with local hotels/motels, the armory, etc. to take folks in. I can only conclude that these options are not on the table for the current group in need because they are seen as "less than and therefore less deserving" compared to homeowners/taxpayers. For shame.

I urge the council to stop talking about the crisis/emergency and start acting like we are in an emergency/crisis. Think outside the box. Deprioritize non-essential services in order to address this problem. Spend the money and run a deficit if necessary. It will save lives and you can go after the Province/Feds for the money later as it is not lost on me that none of this would be necessary had the other levels of governments not abandoned their most vulnerable citizens. For shame.

Kevin Bowman

https://www.guelphmercury.com/news/we-re-going-to-see-more-deaths-in-guelph/article_a3134fe3-bbcf-5501-834b-b712e806aa0b.html

Why is the City declaring war on homeless people and NOT on homelessness? STOP KICKING PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE ALREADY BARELY SURVIVING.