

To City Council,

My name is Sadie Lambert. I no longer live in the city of Guelph, but I grew up here, my family lives here, and I spend much of my time here visiting with this family and my friends who continue to reside here. I find myself concerned by the proposed item 9.2 regarding encampments downtown. I understand the depth of the homelessness crisis in the city, and I know how it has risen in recent years. The homeless population is a vulnerable population, and while I understand that their presence in the downtown core is potentially tumultuous to the businesses of our lovely downtown, I do not believe that the criminalization of an already unprotected population is any step towards positive change. This criminalization of encampments is a temporary solution that will only lead to this vulnerable population being barred from further access to services that they rely on. We need immediate supportive housing in the downtown, and increased social services made accessible.

I appreciate your time,  
Sadie Lambert