

Good morning,

It am writing to you regarding the encampments currently residing in our Downtown. As a business, we have experienced constant issues with the drug addicts and criminals who live and occupy downtown.

The amount of theft, vandalism and incessant disturbances is out of control. Myself and my staff have had to shovel vomit and human feces from our storefront and back entrance more times than I can count. Needles, drug paraphernalia, condoms, and disgusting unsafe items just to keep our storefront remotely clean.

I've had all my light fixtures smashed on the exterior of my building. I've had an encampment on my patio. I've had several overdoses on my patio, back stairwell and bathrooms. I've had new outdoor pots smashed. I just finished our Christmas decor outside only to have all the wreaths stolen less than a week later. It's out of control.

My staff have had their purses stolen, and we've had a full break in where money, cell phones and uniforms were stolen.

Sexual acts are performed behind our building for drug money. My 19 year old staff member is taking out the garbage and witnessing this disgusting public behaviour.

At this point, I can't even list the amount of issues facing our business every day, due to the criminals and drug addicts that spend their time downtown.

This issue needs to be resolved. Our downtown has become a disgrace, and our clients are completely terrified and will not return downtown.

Families and children, elderly people and our community members are witnessing daily overdose, crime, physical abuse, open needle and drug use. It is beyond terrifying.

All of the businesses are suffering and it's appalling. We have to do something to save our downtown. There's no reason why we can't fix this. Action needs to be taken. The encampments are disgusting, unsafe and a disturbance to our community.

These people need help, but the rest of us should not be losing everything in order to do so. If we don't, there will be no businesses left. We all have families to feed and need our jobs to support.

These people are sucking the resources from our city, and destroying it.

Thank you,

Brianna Cook  
Acqua Quebec Street