

Hello,

My name is Emjay Wright, I am a resident of Guelph in the N1H 2R2 area code, and I am calling on my city councillors to vote no on item 9.2.

I am absolutely mortified at the inhumanity of your proposal to prohibit temporary enclosures and encampments in Guelph. There is a homelessness epidemic occurring in Guelph, directly due to the selling of 90 Carden. There are not enough safe shelter spaces to support those who need rest and housing is becoming more and more inaccessible every day. Making encampments illegal, or pushing people to the outskirts of town where they are isolated from resources, will not help them. Item 9.2 does not follow human rights standards; folks should not be displaced or moved unless it is to permanent housing.

Additionally, the notion of a "Safe Use of Public Spaces" by-law in sub-section 5 is also horrifying. Some people do not have homes to live in, and the city has become so hostile to unhoused people using the facilities such as bathrooms. Where are they supposed to urinate or defecate, where are they supposed to relax, where are they supposed to exist? If we do not want people to be unsafe in public, then serious energy and effort was going towards supporting these folks finding a safe private places to live and thrive. Even outside of the homelessness issue, this item is a massive overreach that if enforced seriously will discourage anybody from freely existing in the downtown core, a place that should be welcoming to people hanging out.

What we need is to put energy towards is expanding the resources that people need in order to move towards well-being. This has to happen first, instead of criminalizing the public existence of people that certain voters do not want to see, and further marginalizing some of the most vulnerable in the city that you purport to serve.

I urge you to vote no on item 9.2 this Tuesday. and to instead promise to work toward expanding Guelph's shelters, social services and health services, otherwise many people are going to die this winter and their blood will be on your hands.

Sincerely yours,

Emjay Wright