

# RIVERROAD

CREATIVE

Communications for A Better Planet

February 5, 2024

Carly Klassen / Rodrigo Goller  
Ward 2  
Guelph Councillors

Dear Ms. Klassen and Mr. Goller,

I am writing regarding the increasing and ongoing presence of rough living encampments in the City of Guelph, particularly in the downtown core (City Square).

I have been a downtown Guelph resident (homeowner) and business operator (tenant) since 2007. What was once a safe and clean community has changed considerably, as you are aware, and not for the better under your leadership roles as City Councillors.

The most direct route for me to get from home to my office is to pass through the City Square. However, for the past several months or longer, this route has become a “dodgy” and unsafe route for me to take. From the shouting of insults and other intimidating behaviours, like fighting and the tossing of questionable debris in my direction, to the blatant drug use and the highly unpleasant and indiscriminate urination and defecation. It is my understanding that Guelph has room in its shelters but that rough living individuals are rejecting that option/solution. Meanwhile, I feel unsafe in my community and yet I am a tax-paying resident with my taxes increasing this year.

My purpose in writing this letter is that I would like you to explain how my rights as a tax-paying citizen are being considered as you work to resolve this issue.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Robinson  
Director/Owner  
RiverRoad Creative

Cc: Mayor Cam Guthrie