

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

My name is Chelsey Eddwards and I am a resident of downtown Guelph and asking you to **vote against the Public Space Use Bylaw.**

I am concerned that this bylaw will make things harder for people who are already struggling in our community. Displacing and criminalizing people who are unhoused is not a solution. People need housing and health supports not enforcement. I believe this bylaw will increase stigma, discrimination and harm toward people who are unhoused.

I am deeply concerned that this bylaw sets a precedent for making folks who are facing hidden homelessness much more vulnerable to being taken advantage of by folks who will use the criminalization as a manipulation tactic. When criminalization is the method for clearing encampments, we see a rise in slum lords who let their properties go into ruin and jeopardize the safety of tenants knowing that they have no other option. As a city that is currently looking to welcome more people with the upcoming Conestoga campus and the new developments coming up across the city, it is very dangerous to not taken into account how bylaws influence everyone who is looking for housing. Do no use this bylaw to exacerbate the issues we are already facing in this community.

I believe that everyone should have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home, and access to the supports they need. I urge you to not support this bylaw and instead focus on solutions that support people.

Thank you,

Chelsey Edwards