

I support the Public Spaces bylaw being presented to Council August 28th, 2024.

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From: **Angela T.** [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Aug 10, 2024, 9:08 a.m.
Subject: Tent City Beside Guelph Youth Music Centre
To: <mayor@guelph.ca>

Hello Mayor Guthrie...

I reside at [REDACTED] Cardigan Street here in Guelph and have lived and loved this city calling it home for the past 28 years...

I know you are well aware of the homelessness plight here in our beloved city and most especially in our downtown core...

I saw you on the news recently addressing the homeless overtaking children's sports parks...Well over the course of this spring and summer I have watched them completely overtake the small park adjacent to the Guelph Youth Music Centre on Cardigan (on the right hand side if you are facing the front of the building).

First it was one tent on the hill beside the bridge, then it was a couple others in the brush, then an additional one on the hill...Now there are approximately 6-7 tents in the park proper, in addition to the others in the brush...

I have long haul covid with severe respiratory and mobility issues and my greatest daily joy was to sit on the bench in this park... Yesterday I noticed with these recent additional tents they have put one directly over and completely covering this bench...

I now have to worry on my walks if someone is going to blow a foreign substance into my face...I had to move to a bench closest to Eramosa along the bike trail and the other evening someone did walk by and blow smoke in my face...It was NOT marijuana! I was shaken!!

It is such a shame, as this park was once frequented by dog walkers, children, families and it was a social gathering spot for those residing in this community...Now everyone avoids it completely...

While I have compassion for these individuals (having worked for 15 plus years w programs in the city assisting them) this is not acceptable in the least...

I look forward to your response and hearing what can be done in an immediate sense...

Most Sincerely,

Angela Taglietti