

Your Worship, Members of Council,

First, our thanks to Ward 2 Councillors Carly Klassen and Rodrigo Goller for their succinct and well-written summary of the issues around homelessness/encampments in the City of Guelph and the invitation to comment on the proposed Public Space Use Bylaw. Our comments/notes are as follows:

- Our family supports the intent of the proposed by-law and believes that, in whatever final form it may take, it should be adopted by Council.
- We strongly endorse the concept that the by-law is not designed to criminalize poverty or other dire circumstances but is intended for the collective public good and safety of everyone in the community, including those who, for whatever reason, are living or plan to live in the encampments themselves. We would suggest that this be noted as strongly and visibly as possible in the final by-law.
- We note that Designated and Sensitive Public Spaces will either be listed in the Appendices or are noted in the draft, but in some cases, they are very tough to figure out (e.g. the designated city-owned land lists). We appreciate how challenging this might be to do, but is there a way to make the lists as unambiguous and simple as possible to reduce ambiguity or misunderstanding?
- If possible, we think it might be wise to increase slightly the distances permitted, as 10 metres (the most common distance) is not very far from many of the areas noted – e.g. playgrounds, ponds etc. This would perhaps help to reduce any potential frictions or feelings of infringement on personal space/safety. We would suggest 12 metres could be a small but effective change in distance.
- Finally, it isn't clear from the draft – or we have missed it, for which we apologize- what sanitary – bathroom, restroom etc- measures are covered in the current draft, or need to be covered.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make these comments. We respect any decisions Council will have to make when dealing with this very sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

Peter Barrow

█ Glenhill Place Guelph █
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