

Hello,

I'm writing today to express my utter frustration, heart break, and confusion that the proposed public space use by law is back on the agenda at city council.

To have the amount of outrage and push back the city received last attempt, and still have very little substantial changes made in this version is at best confusing, at worst insulting.

This by law does not propose any solutions or steps forward in supporting unhoused folks, and further moves to criminalize unhoused folks and organizations or individuals who dare to show compassion, humanity, and support for our unhoused neighbours.

This proposed by law, in addition to the support and funding cuts the city has been making, leave very little to the imagination. You want or wish unhoused people would disappear and you think you can speed up the process by removing the very little social supports you have offered.

Why waste the money and resources required to implement and further enforce this by law when you could just support unhoused folks instead? If this bylaw is approved there is very high likelihood that it will receive a charter challenge. Is this really the legal hill the city wants to and is willing to stand on? Especially given the January 2023 Ontario Superior Court of Justice precedence, where Justice Michael J. Valente ruled the regions bylaws related to conduct on regionally owned properties violates unsheltered residents rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to life, security, and liberty of the person.

In disappointment and a deep desire that you rescind this embarrassing proposal of legislation,

Britt Lee