

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Playing Hot Potato: City's "Core Area Action Plan" Suggests Transferring Mackie's Drug Injection Site from Downtown to Midtown to end drugs, crime, violence and chaos in the core

London - The City's new **Core Area Action Plan** suggests moving Dr. Mackie's drug injection site from downtown to midtown to curtail skyrocketing crime and social problems hurting businesses and scaring customers out of the downtown core.

The plan lists 69 'actions' to fix the downtown. Action number 53 cites City policy behind its intention to move the site away "from busy commercial areas that are more likely to generate conflicts with business owners, customers, tourists and employees" to "a site that conforms" with said policy. That site is 446 York Street, confirmed by the plan's reference to a location that's awaiting final decisions by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

However, 446 York Street, located in the Midtown neighbourhood, doesn't conform with city policies on several fronts. (attached). For example, it's immediately adjacent to residential property, thousands of families, several businesses, and is less than 90 metres from Beal Secondary School attended by over 2,000 children.

Among the local small businesses are family-run car lots – one located right next door. Public Safety Canada (PSC) states that intravenous drug users typically turn to crime – including car theft, to finance their addiction.

"Transferring the serious, escalating problems described in the plan onto Midtown children, families, seniors and small businesses demonstrates an appalling lack of leadership by the Mayor, Ward Councillor Kayabaga and anyone who claims to care about community safety," says Denise Krogman, President of the Midtown Ratepayers Association. The group is pressing the Province to keep the site out of 446 York Street. In recent weeks they've gathered over 500 petition signatures and are forwarding them to Health Minister Christine Elliott's office.

The Core Area Action Plan details the same problems experienced by Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and other communities with drug injection sites. Along with crime and violence, local businesses routinely face needles, human waste and garbage in storefronts and public areas.

In the Plan, the City defines the core as including the downtown, Richmond Row and Old East Village. It is silent on Midtown, located between downtown and Old East Village.

The **Core Area Action Plan** details the same problems experienced by Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and other communities with drug injection sites. Along with crime and violence, local businesses routinely face needles, human waste and garbage in storefronts and public areas.

In the Plan, the City defines the core as including the downtown, Richmond Row and Old East Village. It is silent on Midtown, located between downtown and Old East Village.

The City also thanks people “living in, working in, and visiting the Core Area” for insights that helped inform the plan. Curiously, the City continues to blatantly ignore Midtown residents.

“Drug injections sites are a well-intentioned idea that enables addicts and creates broken neighbourhoods,” concludes Krogman. “The City is treating their drug injection site like a hot potato, and they want it to land on our laps. We’ll continue to fight for our neighbourhood.”

Contact Denise Krogman at 519.438.1182

About the Midtown Ratepayers Association

The Midtown Ratepayers Association is a caring group of residents and business owners who want to protect the neighbourhood from crime, danger and social decline. They are ready to stand up for students, their businesses and their neighbourhood by opposing the safe injection site at 446 York Street. They will fight for their community and drug addicts by supporting fact-driven solutions that promote rehabilitation and do not enable drug use.

Contact Denise Krogman at 519 438 1182



London
CANADA

Siting of Safe Consumption Facilities and Temporary Overdose Prevention Sites in London

Policy Name: Siting of Safe Consumption Facilities and Temporary Overdose Prevention Sites in London

Legislative History: Enacted January 30, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-233-50); Amended June 26, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-340-331)

Last Review Date: April 11, 2019

Service Area Lead: Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability

1. Policy Statement

This policy is to define a Supervised Consumption Facility (SCF) and Temporary Overdose Prevention Site (TOPS), to provide criteria for the siting of these facilities, and to establish an engagement process for proponents of an application to permit these facilities.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Supervised Consumption Facility** - means a facility that has received an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, where people can bring their illicit drugs to consume in a sterile and safer environment. These sites have equipment and trained staff present to oversee a person's drug consumption and assist in the event of an overdose or other health risk. These facilities may offer additional health and drug-related support services. These facilities are intended to provide such services on an ongoing, rather than temporary, basis.
- 2.2. Temporary Overdose Prevention Site** - means a temporary facility that has received an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, where people can bring their illicit drugs to consume in a sterile and safer environment. These sites have equipment and trained staff present to oversee a person's drug consumption and assist in the event of an overdose or other health risk. Unlike supervised consumption facilities, these facilities are to be temporary in nature, existing for two years or less.

3. Applicability

The policy applies to proponents of an application to permit a Supervised Consumption Facility (SCF) or Temporary Overdose Prevention Site (TOPS).

4. The Policy

4.1. Siting of Supervised Consumption Facilities

It is a policy of the City of London to ask that any proponent of a supervised consumption facility (SCF) implement the following location, design and engagement measures through the process of siting their facility:

4.1.1. Location Criteria to Benefit Those Who Use Such Facilities

For the benefit of those who use supervised consumption facilities, they should be sited in a location that is:

- Within close proximity to, or near, communities where drug consumption is prevalent
- Well serviced by transit

- Discrete, allowing for reasonable privacy for those using the facility
- Separated from busy pedestrian-oriented commercial areas
- Separated from public spaces that generate pedestrian traffic or may generate crowds from time to time
- Close to an area with other drug addiction related support services

4.1.2. Location Criteria to Avoid Land Use Conflicts

In addition to those criteria listed in Part 1, above, to avoid land use conflicts, supervised consumption facilities should be sited in a location that is:

- Separated from busy commercial areas or active public spaces that could generate conflicts between the general public and those leaving these facilities after consuming
- Separated from parks
- Separated from key pedestrian corridors in the Core Area
- Separated from public elementary or secondary school properties
- Separated from municipal pools, arenas and community centres and the Western Fairgrounds
- Not within the interior of a residential neighbourhood

4.1.3. Site Design Criteria

In addition to those location criteria listed in Part 1 and Part 2 of this policy, supervised consumption facilities should be designed to:

- Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
- Meet municipal bylaws and provincial regulations for accessibility
- Orient building entrances to allow for reasonably discrete entry and exit
- Ensure that building waiting areas and vestibules are adequately sized to avoid line-ups or waiting outside of the building
- Allow for easy visual surveillance of the facility and its surrounding site from the street
- Avoid opportunities for loitering, such as the installation of seating areas or landscape features that can be used for seating.

4.1.4. Engagement Measures

Consultation processes required by the Federal and Provincial governments must be met. In addition, proponents of supervised consumption facilities should host a meeting with property owners, business owners, and residents within a minimum of 120m of the proposed site to describe the proposal and operational procedures planned for the facility, hear the neighbouring property owners concerns, allow for consideration of measures that could be taken to mitigate these concerns, and establish a system for ongoing communication with the community.

4.2. Siting of Temporary Overdose Prevention Sites (TOPS)

It is recognized, through this policy, that temporary overdose prevention sites are intended to address a public health emergency. In addition, they are intended to be temporary in nature. Accordingly, it is understood that all of the siting and design criteria identified in Part A, above, may not be achievable. However, any proponent of a temporary overdose prevention site should ensure that the majority of these location and design criteria are met and that the facility is not located within the interior of a residential neighbourhood or near a public elementary or secondary school.

The engagement measures identified for supervised consumption facilities in Part A, above, should be implemented for temporary overdose prevention sites, but may occur after the facility has been established.

The Province has indicated that, to address a public health emergency, temporary overdose prevention sites may be approved by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care on a time limited basis (3 to 6 months) with the possibility of extension. To

recognize this temporary status, Council requests that applications to the Province for extensions of temporary overdose prevention sites not be approved if they result in such uses existing for more than two years.

Rather, the need for such services should be addressed through a supervised consumption facility.