



July 22, 2020

Mary-Anne Bedard- General Manager of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

City of Toronto

Via e-mail

Re: City's decision to establish emergency shelters at 55-65 Broadway Ave and at the former Roehampton Hotel at 880 Mt Pleasant Rd

Dear Ms Bedard:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the City's decision to open three emergency shelters within such close proximity to public schools in the Yonge-Eglinton area. The two transitional shelters opened this past spring at #55-#65 Broadway Ave are located next to the building that houses North Toronto Collegiate Institute (NTCI), across the street from a Catholic elementary school, and a block away from John Fisher Public School. The more recently-opened and third shelter, located at the former Roehampton Hotel at 808 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, is literally metres away from two public schools, sandwiched between Eglinton Public School and Northern Secondary School.

With daycare set to re-open in a matter of days at Eglinton PS and several thousand children scheduled to go back to school in the coming weeks in these 5 schools, we implore you to reconsider if these shelters truly make sense in their current locations, so close to schools. And until they can be relocated, we ask that the City of Toronto provide additional security at TDSB school sites to assist in controlling access to the school grounds, ensuring the safe travel to and from school for our students, and ensuring our properties remain safe and free of debris from shelter residents.

We understand the need for emergency physically-distanced shelters during the COVID-19 Pandemic and want to ensure vulnerable Torontonians are supported. However, we are extremely disappointed no foresight was given to the ramifications of this decision on the safety of children attending local public schools. Our schools face substantial challenges from COVID-19 as well, and we have a duty to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and students, who will now face many additional issues come September.

We are receiving daily reports of loitering, tents for sleeping in doorways, public urination and leftover drug paraphernalia on the aforementioned school sites. For example, in mid-June, William Mack, Principal of NTCI alerted us to associated issues that had already been a concern at the school for a number of weeks. The NTCI caretakers collected and disposed of a huge amount of syringes and police attended and spoke to the Principal about the need for increased vigilance once students are back in the building.

Ian Wilson, Principal of Eglinton School, informed us this morning that his caretaking staff are reporting individuals coming on site during the day and that caretakers are finding needles on school property. And

Adam Marshall, Principal of Northern Secondary School, was made aware of people camping in one of the covered entrances of the school in the last couple of days, and is reporting needles on school grounds and the effects of public urination on school premises. The entrances and the walls on the south side of the school all need to be sanitized as they smell and show signs of human urine.

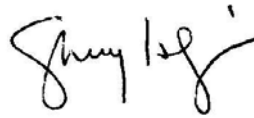
These incidents are particularly concerning for September, but also an immediate concern. Currently, Northern SS is housing a City of Toronto day camp (CampTO), and the field is permitted on weekday evenings to a youth soccer league. And as mentioned above, the childcare programs start at Eglinton in less than two weeks, on August 4. Our caretaking staff is busy managing their daily enhanced COVID-19 requirements, and now they too must be extra vigilant about keeping the school yard free of any garbage and/or debris in the morning and throughout the day. It is not sustainable.

With all of these concerns in mind, we have been in touch with TDSB Director Carlene Jackson and Executive Officer Steve Shaw. They have confirmed that given the additional health and safety responsibilities our caretaking staff have to undertake in order to safely reopen our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not have the security or caretaking staff in our budget to monitor or manage the extra tasks this situation presents. As a result, we request that the City immediately provide additional security and cleaning, and that the locations for these shelters be reconsidered and relocated.

Respectfully,



Rachel Chernos Lin
Trustee Ward 11 – Don Valley West



Shelley Laskin
Trustee Ward 8 – Toronto-St Paul's and Eglinton-Lawrence



Taken outside Northern Secondary School

CC:

MPP Jill Andrew, Legislative Assembly of Ontario;
MPP Kathleen Wynne, Legislative Assembly of Ontario;
Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto;
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, City of Toronto;
Councillor Josh Matlow, City of Toronto;
Councillor Jaye Robinson, City of Toronto;
Councillor Ana Bailão, City of Toronto;
Councillor Michael Thompson, City of Toronto;
Councillor Stephen Holyday, City of Toronto;
Councillor Joe Cressy, City of Toronto;
Nicolle Williams, Manager, Homelessness Initiatives & Prevention Services, City of Toronto;
Mark Wilson, City of Toronto;
Trustee Angela Kennedy, TCDSB;
Director of Education Carlene Jackson, TDSB;
Associate Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins, TDSB;
Associate Director Craig Snider, TDSB;
Executive Officer Steve Shaw, Facility Services, TDSB;
Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropoulos, TDSB;
Superintendent Ian Allison, TDSB;
Superintendent John Chasty, TDSB;
Superintendent Andrew Howard, TDSB;
Principal Adam Marshall, Northern SS;
Vice-Principal Eric Halling, Northern SS;
Vice-Principal Jessica Pearson, Northern SS;
Vice-Principal Rani Vohra, Northern SS;
Principal William Mack, North Toronto CI;
Vice-Principal Annamaria Mazzaferro, North Toronto CI;
Vice-Principal Kathleen Pyper, North Toronto CI;
Principal Ian Wilson, Eglinton JPS;
Vice-Principal Elizabeth Aiello, Eglinton JPS;
Principal Jane Wadden, John Fisher JPS;
Vice-Principal Dori Antolin, John Fisher JPS;
Anastasia Poulis, Centrally Assigned Principal - Early Years, TDSB;
Cynthia Grundmann, Sr. Policy Advisor/Manager - Child Care Services, TDSB;
Liz Hoang, Manager - Child Care Services, TDSB;
Nadejda Lekosky, Early Years Coordinator, TDSB;
Shelly Maki-Filippi, Facility Team Leader, TDSB;
Ron Aylmar, Facility Team Leader, TDSB;
Jonathan Grove, Regional Manager - Plant Operations & Maintenance, TDSB;
Jerome Deonarine, Caretaking Team Leader, TDSB;
Darren Coles, Physical Plant Security Coordinator, TDSB;

Ron Felsen, Centrally Assigned Principal - School Operations & Service Excellence, TDSB;
Shari Schwartz-Maltz, Manager - Media Relations and Issues, TDSB;
Geri Berholz;
Hessam Ghadaki;
Daly McCarten;
Christopher Portner;
Howard Cohen;
George Nikolov;
Susan Goldberg;
Gayle Sutton;
Barbara Young;
Pamela Doyle;
Dhira Bery;
Lydia Majerle;
Feanna Drake;
Luisa Anna & Sophia Mom;
Edwina Jobin
Deanna Williams;
Gard Shelley;
James Shimoda;
Christine Shimoda;
Jane Auster;
Katherine Hawkins;
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