

From: Peter Hasek

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To: Jason Farr & Brian McHattie

Cc: Duvall, Scott; Ferguson, Lloyd; Peter Schafft; Jackson, Tom; Tom Cooper; Rob Howard; Paul Berton; Michael Ollier (HCLC); Doreen McPartlin (HCLC); Howard Elliott; Lindsay Beckham (HCLC); Bratina, Bob; Laura Catteri; Gallagher, Mary; Grozelle, Andy; Bedioui, Ida; **Mary Puntillo**; Karen Langstaff; Morelli, Bernie; Merulla, Sam; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi; SGT. Geoffrey Burbidge; Stewart, William; Graham Cubitt; Murray, Chris; David Sweet; Trudy Morris; Andrea Horwath, MPP

Subject: Communications To Hamilton City Council

Lets Be Realistic...What Will We Achieve?

CityHousing Hamilton is about to embark on a brave and bold new program, (*some would say "experimental"*) to dramatically reduce the amount of drug and other criminal activities that are allowed to operate, and are inadvertently enabled by staff, at **CityHousing** hi-rise buildings; including **Hamilton's** very-own version of **Toronto's** Jane and Finch area: **181 Jackson Street West** and **95 Hess Street South**.

Currently, we find ourselves working at cross-purposes. The law states clearly that addiction is a handicap: that addiction is a disability which prevents **CityHousing Hamilton** from evicting known addicts and drug dealers from their social housing units. In fact, **CityHousing** staff work to prevent the eviction of addicts and dealers, thereby increasing the concentration of addicts and dealers in **CityHousing** hi-rise buildings.

Lets assume that **CityHousing** staff have done their jobs and set-up a new safety and security regime that makes effective use of their new, **\$750,000** video surveillance system and supporting programs. This system and programs will not eliminate drug addiction which feeds criminal activities in our area. However, it will, create a new paradigm, a new realm, that will change the "*drug and crime game*" at **181 Jackson West, 95 Hess South** and **155 Park Street**.

The best we can hope-for is to change the way the addicts and dealers and gang members conduct their business within **CityHousing** property's. Everyone (*addicts and dealers alike*), will become motivated to keep their business "*under the **RADAR**,*" so to speak.

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Gone will be the days when violence is an effective enforcement tool to keep the addicts in-line. Instead, the more professional dealers will become more selective in who they sell to; using the addicts own cravings to enforce good business practices.

ie., **DEALERS talking to CityHousing Addicts:** *"if you act like an (expletive deleted), if you don't pay your bills, if you don't let us use your **CityHousing** apartment to sell drugs, we're not going to sell any drugs to you...and we'll follow you wherever you go, and prevent anyone else from selling drugs to you..."*

If I were an addict, that warning would scare me a lot more than the threat of a beating! And it is a smart business tactic for the dealers, too. Sure, business will drop-off; but, so will the risk of getting caught...and the hassle of dealing with non-compliant customers. Peace and order will be re-established.

This new balance, or equilibrium, will become the next, **ad hoc** generation of law enforcement tool; and a new way to keep the peace. No more violence. No more noise or calls to the police: just a choice; **get help...and get off drugs...or....do EXACTLY what the dealers and gang members want you to do....**

Crime, or drug-related crimes at least, will go almost completely under-ground. Most of us without addiction issues will be able to live relatively peaceful lives.

Some time in 2014, **CityHousing** and the **Crown** will start using video surveillance footage collected by the security contractor, as evidence in criminal trials. Defense attorneys will determine if **CityHousing** staff did their homework by subjecting this video surveillance evidence to a **Voir Dire** challenge in court. From that point forward, everyone will embark on a brand new learning curve.

Peter Hasek
Vice Chair
Safety & Security Task Force
CityHousing Hamilton