

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Pam Summers

Sent: September 15, 2020 11:40 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Bates, Tamara <Tamara.Bates@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Fw: Mayor and Members of Council

I support the letter sent to Council by our community members, and would like to add (information/questions) to reflect my own experiences and thoughts.

Nrinder Nann publically announced that there are 15 RCF'S in Ward 3 and continued by stating:

"I understand Rob Mastroianni has replied with the specifics. **You will notice that though we have a high number in Ward 3, we do not have the highest, and certainly the RCFs are highly concentrated in the lower city and closer to the Downtown core**"

Although, in office for 2yrs as an advocate and supporter of vulnerable and marginalized residents in her ward, she had NO clue that the number of 15 was completely incorrect. The list was not up to date, and was still reflecting the old ward boundaries. Even if the list was not correct it is her duty as an elected council to be current with her information especially when it comes to over saturation issues.

It has been almost 3 weeks since I emailed her to have her correct the numbers using some kind of public platform, my emails have gone completely unanswered to this date.

As a tax paying citizen this is completely unprofessional, legally I am entitled to have my emails answered. If I was to just "ignore" emails from my "boss" for 3 weeks, with repeated reminders, I would not have a job.

Mayor and Members of Council

September 14, 2020

I, the undersigned, have resided in Hamilton/Ward 3 for 23 years.

I write at the best of my abilities, under the pressure to submit in time and with the very limited amount of information that I have been able to gather from the officials, the newspapers and the community.

This is an addendum to the two emails I have already submitted along

with some neighbours, to the Clerk for the Council meeting of September 10, 2020, regarding the Old Cathedral Boys School emergency shelter. I attach 5 documents and the FAQ.

This letter has also been composed to the best of my ability also considering that numerous neighbours, me included, who have been asking questions to Councillor Nann since mid-August and received to this date no answers or only answers deflecting our inquiries.

I will leave aside now the stressors that the opening of the emergency shelter will add onto our historically vulnerable Stinson community and how this increases the risks for an outbreak of Corona in our neighborhood because we have addressed these issues already in those two emails.

Councillor Nann wrote to me: "this decision was made under emergency orders which cannot be revoked"

I bring to your attention that those words misled many neighbours into believing that it was pointless to make the effort to exercise their duty and right to express their opposition to the opening of the temporary emergency shelter in the location of the Old Cathedral Boys High School. Most of my neighbours added sadly: "Besides, there is no point to fight City Hall."

But we discussed it further and then I passed on in an email our thinking to Councillor Nann: "Your affirmation does not stand legally, as any emergency order SHALL BE REVOKED immediately when it is shows indications to be unwise, ill-conceived, dangerous to the local population, taken in the interest of third parties, promoting self-interest or corrupt."

It appears that the actions of those involved may also fit the parameters for what is called Conspiracy Against Rights in the USA code (Conspiracy against rights is a criminal offense involving acts to prevent others from exercising their constitutional rights). The same universal legal principles and arguments could be presented to the Canadian Courts in this case. The seriousness may be compounded by the use/or abuse of the sacrosanct and extraordinary powers of an "emergency order" because it may create a dangerous legal precedent to the well-being not just of the Stinson community but to all Canadians in the future.

All aspects of how this emergency order was passed shall be made public, including the names of all those who participated in the different stages of conception and what role those people played and the interests they represented and the dates when each one of those conversations took place. It appears, but we are not sure, that the emergency order conception began after the order to shelter in place was already lifted. In Ontario, Phase 1 started May 19, 2020; Phase 2 started June 12, 2020 and Phase 3 started July 17, 2020. It appears that the Emergency Committee gave their approval for funding the emergency shelter at the

Old Cathedral Boys School at the July 17, 2020 meeting, the exact day Phase 3 began in Ontario. The timing should be investigated; it appears that the Good Shepherd Hamilton already owned or had possession of the building in 2018. All of this is public record.

I will focus now on the document published in August by Nrinder Nann, City Councillor/ Ward 3. entitled "Community Information Session on Temporary Shelter Services." , I attached the document to this email under that title.

The document opens: "This document contains a summary to the questions my office has received in relation to the September opening of a temporary shelter at 378 Main St. E."

Please note that instead of "a summary of questions", it should read: "'a selection of questions"; it has been reported by neighbors that they were blocked in the "social media" for asking "inconvenient questions" that perhaps did not suit Nann's narrative.

The document concludes with the contact information of two of the protagonists of the Zoom info-meeting:

Rob Mastroianni Manager of Emergency Shelter Services & RCF Subsidies at Rob.Mastroianni@Hamilton.ca

Katherine Kalinowski, Chief Operating Officer, Good Shepherd Housing Services kkalinowski@gsch.ca (905)528-5877 Ext. 3323

It appears that the document and the the Zoom info meeting hosted by Councillor Nann in August, are in sync. The linguistic styles of both formats are identical. The type of language used to communicate the "news" to the community after the decision was already passed under "an emergency order", may indicate a willfully and orchestrated strategic intention to distract, to purposely occult the facts and to mislead the public. The type of language may indicate that the authors had awareness that they were manipulating and taking advantage of and abusing the emergency order process letter and/or spirit for their own personal ideology, interests or gains. This type of intention constitutes cause for the revocation of the emergency order. As it stands at this moment it may set a dangerous legal precedent for all Canadians.

It is possible that Councillor Nann, a holistic nutritionist from New York and only a recent resident of Hamilton/Ward 3, Gage Park, was not "familiar" with the history of our City, including the sinister scams of the famously nefarious family Martino that seemly became rich by sucking the life blood from the vulnerable and marginalized population placed under their care by the City and the Province, and the unsolved murder of Joe Melo, seemly implicated in assisting living schemes and a mega "pharmacy legal scheme" as reported in the Spec, until we informed her about it. It appears that the Martino family still runs the same kind of business they used to under other names and numbered companies as reported in the Spec article "House of Horrors", Jun 11, 2020 and other

recent articles. Note the dates:

1. House of Horrors was published June 11, 2020.
2. At the beginning of July 2020, some yet unnamed party approached Councillor Nann with the plan to locate the emergency shelter at the corner of Main and Emerald St. under an emergency order.

House of Horrors should have raised a red flag for the location.

Another red flag emerges from the on-line City of Hamilton Covid -19 map. Since the beginning of the pandemic the composite area of of Stinson-Landsdale has been colored "Dark Gray" indicating the high number of infections compared to the rest of Hamilton.

It seems that Councillor Nann was also not aware of the dynamics of the Stinson community, not just regarding the high concentration of badly run assisting living operations, but the high concentration of other social ills buildings, crystal meth dens and rooming houses, "trouble buildings" that even the police are afraid to enter. This problem is presently compounded by the "red fentanyl" and the Covid-19.

A study for the Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-MARG) should be done on the composite area of Stinson-Landsdale.

On the other hand, Mastroianni and Kalinowski should have being fully aware of the situation of Stinson-Landsdale, given their seniority in Hamilton, their jobs and their titles.

Another red flag was raised by the independent journalist Joey Coleman's Tweet: "City Manager's office just deleted video of last week's meeting of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee from YouTube." He has now requested this video under the "Freedom of Information Act". We ask you to look into the matter and to use your Councillor position to release this video to the public immediately, so that given the urgency of the matter we do not have to wait for many months before it is released. You shall also require the name/s of the persons who requested for this video to be deleted and the reasons they alleged for this action. The public has a right to know who and why.

This could constitute cause for the revocation of the emergency order, as it may indicate rush and/or wrong-doing and/or self-interest and/or conspiracy against rights and thus abuse of the emergency order legal process letter and/or spirit.

Furthermore, their actions de facto disregard the well-being of the population that resides already in situ during the pandemic and are not financially able to move elsewhere at this moment. If an Covid-19 outbreak manifests at the heart of Stinson, then there will be grounds to claim the action-planners and other interested parties are open to liability because we warn them.

I noticed that today, September 14, the cases of Covid-19 are increasing as it was prognosticated.

I noticed that in Hamilton, the Stinson neighbourhood was down from the recent "Dark Grey" to "Medium Grey" but that Landsdale is in "Dark Grey", meaning there is a higher number of new infections in that community. Notice that both neighborhoods are geographically touching. The boundary is Main St. exactly where Motel Cathedral will open soon. So it is a fact that the emergency shelter is opening at the geographical heart of the largest numbers of Covid-19 reported cases in Hamilton.

I take now the task to point out to the Mayor and Council some of the other red flags where it seems that misleading language was used regarding the "temporary status of the emergency shelter". This may legally constitute deception and conspiracy and a will to mislead the community and to corrupt letter and/or the spirit of the order.

1. "What makes you think that Cathedral will be any more successful than the First Ontario?"

The shelter at First Ontario has offered a safe, hospitable environment for single men experiencing homelessness. Good Shepherd has no authority over the space outside of the FOC that is currently an encampment site. Staff do monitor that area and actively offer shelter services but we do not direct any activity outside of the FOC. At the Cathedral site, Good Shepherd will be responsible for activity both inside and outside of the building. We will not accommodate campers on this site. We will, however, work with individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services."

Perhaps Councillor Nann has not enough experience to know that, naturally and logically, the encampment site will move from First Ontario to the Stinson green spaces/ parkettes, because the tenters need to be close to the services of "Motel Cathedral", as they call it. The tenters have already scouted our neighbourhood and stated their intentions to move onto the various green spaces, as we have reported to the authorities and thus fulfilled our civic duties (during a pandemic to report infractions or weakness of the safety protocols is an ethical and a legal duty not only a civic right.)

It is reasonable to think that Mastroniani and the Good Shepherd Hamilton, more experienced than Nann, may have already prognosticated this encampment possibility and not only chose to remain silent but they may have tried to hide it from the community by stating that: "We will not accommodate campers on this site. We will, however, work with individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services."

If they contemplated the possibility of the tenting camp moving closer to Motel Cathedral attracted to the services the tenters will receive there, they spoke knowingly with the "intention to deceive the public" and their use of the "emergency order" is null. If they did not contemplate the likelihood of a "flood of tents", it may indicate that

these individuals are not equipped to hold on their present jobs or to invoke a pandemic "emergency order". Council shall interrogate the individuals separately, ask them for all their documentations and notes to determine which one of these two scenarios took place.

"We will, however, work with individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services.

The opening of the doors of the new emergency shelter was orchestrated behind closed doors. The plan endangers the community with the approaching Second Wave, thus a new Covid-19 emergency order shall be invoked if the Motel Cathedral opens in disregard of sound scientific pandemic strategies and protocols:

For the time that this particular shelter remains open, the services that historically the Good Shepherd Ministries has offered to "the individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services." shall be suspended.

The support services the homeless desperately need are food, toilets and showers. As a Covid-19 precautionary measure, the doors of Motel Cathedral shall be closed to all-non-residents. These Good Shepherd Ministries services to individuals who are not registered in the shelter shall be suspended in this precise location due to Covid-19 "community distancing protocols" and these vital services shall be offered at a different location. If the tenting folk needs are served outside of Stinson, this will stop the tenting camp from setting in Stinson and it will reduce the compounded risk of a Covid-19 outbreak that our community is facing at the moment.

2. "Site & Location

How was the Former Cathedral Boys' School site chosen for this facility? The property is privately owned by the Catholic Diocese who offered the site for this purpose to the Good Shepherd in response to the population needs. Upon review, the site was in appropriate state of use and contained the amenities most appropriate for shelter use including: showers, gym, overnight accommodation and day programming use."

The Ownership of the building is not clear, therefore the interests of third parties are obscured:

Taken from the Good Shepherd Blog: "On January 19, 2015, the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd fused with the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God. This 'fusion' of the two religious orders saw the end of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd as a formal entity. The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd have now become Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God.

The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd are known locally for the work that is done through Good Shepherd Ministries in Toronto."

This means that The Good Shepherd Hamilton is indeed a Catholic entity located within the Hamilton Diocese, but it is legally a "formal entity" [An association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, or individual that has legal standing in the eyes of law. A legal entity has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right, and to be held responsible for its actions] and as such it is legally different from the Dioceses even if they are geographically within the Diocese and thus "belong" to the Diocese but it is not privately own by the Diocese. Thus the statement that "The property is privately owned by the Catholic Diocese who offered the site for this purpose to the Good Shepherd in response to the population needs" may appear to be purposefully "misleading".

I selected 2 lines from the Cultural Heritage Assessment Report on the Former Cathedral Boys' High School.

<https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=151834>

1.0 Introduction, 3rd paragraph: " On November 9, 2016, Alan Whittle of Good Shepherd Hamilton greeted Peter Stewart, Francine Antoniou and Paul Dilse for photographic recording of the school."

This indicates that Alan Whittle/Good Shepherd Hamilton had already "some level of interest" in the building in 2016.

The next document is dated 2018, 2 years before the pandemic began:
<https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=152578>

Note the last line:

"HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The subject property, municipally known as 378 Main Street East, Hamilton (see Appendix "A" to Report PED17168) is known locally as the Cathedral Boys' High School.

The School was built in 1928 and funded by the Hamilton Catholic population. This school was the first purpose built Catholic High School in Hamilton. Designed by Hutton and Souter, the Former Cathedral Boys' High School was designed in the architectural style known as Modern Gothic, Collegiate Gothic or Neo-Gothic. Hutton and Souter were prominent architects responsible for a number of other significant buildings in Hamilton such as the Delta Collegiate High School, the Royal Connaught Hotel, and the John Sopinka Courthouse.

In 1951, a wing was built to memorialize students that fought and lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. Constructed in a vernacular style, the architect is unknown. In September 1992, the Cathedral Boys' High School and Cathedral Girls' High School (on Main Street East, two blocks east of Cathedral Boys' High School) were integrated.

In September 1995, the publicly funded Cathedral High School opened at King Street East and Wentworth Street North, replacing Cathedral Boys' High School and Cathedral Girls' High School.

The property is currently owned by Good Shepherd Hamilton."

According to the Cultural Heritage folk, the Good Shepherd Hamilton already owned the property in 2018.

Furthermore, in a recent Spec. article we read: "Good Shepherd is working out an arrangement with the Roman Catholic diocese to rent out a part of the former Cathedral school, said agency spokesperson Alan Whittle."

<https://www.thespec.com/news/council/2020/07/10/millions-more-on-table-to-help-hamiltons-homeless-amid-pandemic.html>

How can this be if the Cultural Heritage report lists the Good Shepherd Hamilton as the "owner" of the building?

If Bishop Crosby and the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God and the Good Shepherd Hamilton and Alan Whittle had no intention to mislead the Stinson community regarding the "temporary location of the emergency shelter" instead of : "The property is privately owned by the Catholic Diocese who offered the site for this purpose to the Good Shepherd in response to the population needs.", they should have said (my words): "The property is currently owned by Good Shepherd Hamilton", even if the property was acquired or perhaps leased for only \$1 since at least 2018 .

We question the parties name above regarding the lease and we were ignored.

And how could Bishop Crosby, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton "offered the site for this purpose" two years before Covid-19?

3. "Who approached the Diocese? Will they be compensated/reimbursed for use of the space? Good Shepherd approached the Diocese and they have a lease in place."

After reading this, many neighbors believed it and repeatedly requested information regarding the terms and length of this "lease", myself included. There was absolute silence from Nann, Mastroianni and the Good Shepherd Hamilton and the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God and Bishop Crosby on the subject. The optics are not good with respect to these actors' bona fides during the process of invoking an emergency order and the ownership or lease of the building.

It is not a stretch to say that The Old Cathedral Boys' High School is what is known in real estate terms as a "white elephant": a burdensome possession whose cost of upkeep is not in line with its usefulness or value. It was calculated, after the inspection of the building that the cost to remedy the asbestos, the plumbing and the electrical would be at least 15 million dollars. If we add to this astronomical cost the "heritage designation", "the white elephant" real estate definition is met.

This real estate deal is not clear and it may cross the boundaries of ethical behavior and transparency and it shall be looked into and investigated in depth by the Hamilton City Council. Perhaps there are some other benefits to Good Shepherd Hamilton by opening the pandemic temporary emergency shelter at the "with the elephant" property and later on obtain favors or special considerations regarding the property? This shall be disclosed.

This could constitute cause for the revocation of the emergency order, as it may indicate deception, wrong-doing, interest of third parties, tit for tat and abuse of the emergency order process with a possible ulterior motive to by-pass a lawful "Cultural Heritage designation". It should be looked into it by City Hall and the Ethics Committee.

3. "What is the hard end date for this use? Is there one?"

June 2021 is the approved end date for this temporary use. However, it is also dependent on what unfolds with the pandemic and potential second wave. Extending beyond this date would require Council approval and additional funding."

It appears that this ambiguous and open-ended answer is designed to reassure the overwhelmed community and perhaps even to bypass the "heritage designation" under the pandemic emergency orders.

Once "in situ" with the shelter running, pandemic or not by June 2021, there will be little incentive for City Hall NOT to renew the contract, mostly if it supported by Rob Mastroianni and Ward 3 Councillor Nann.

If indeed June 2021 is the approved final date line for this temporary use, and in case that the opening of this so called "emergency shelter" takes place against our dutifully reported concerns and warnings, then Rob Mastroianni and City Hall shall actively and immediately engage in the selection and the preparedness of a more suitable site for another Good Shepherd Hamilton emergency shelter so that it is ready for June 30 2021. This should be done under a new "emergency order". This immediate and active engagement to find another location is urgent because there is no guarantee that the pandemic will be resolved by June 2021, and the community may be forced to live under these extreme conditions for 9 long months + the delays. This time, the process shall be public to avoid wasting precious resources again, aka taxpayer's money.

4. "Why are these facilities so concentrated in Landsdale and Stinson? How was this factored into the decision? There are a number of social service type agencies in the central lower city, such as shelters, Residential Care Facilities, and others. Many of these programs have long standing histories in the neighbourhood that date back 30+ years. Due to proximity to other services which residents would access, the downtown core is often seen as an ideal location to ensure ease of access to those services."

I follow this statement with the words of Councillor Nann in the email

she sent me, dated 05/09/2020:

"I truly do appreciate your concern of the over concentration in the Stinson neighbourhood, as with several other neighborhoods in Ward 3 of poorly run RCFs. It is something I will continue to tirelessly flag and demand action on. Historical decisions led to this over-concentration and it must be rectified!"

Councillor Nann contradicts herself by:

a. Actively supporting to open the emergency shelter by invoking an extreme "emergency order" and thus purposely bypassing her constituents concerns regarding the over-concentration of the area.

b. While affirming that "Historical decisions led to this over-concentration and it must be rectified!".

This contradiction of thought disqualifies her from invoking "emergency orders" because her support for the plan just increased the historical over-concentration she states needs to be rectified.

Perhaps there was "no time to consult the community" but there was plenty time to consult the experts, like ON-MARG and any urban epidemiologist from McMaster.

I firmly believe that the Ontario Humans Right Code is intended to protect us all, and in particular to protect the human rights of the vulnerable and marginalized and that the legislation is not to be used to create an urban ghetto, which constitutes a violation of Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 7. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice. Myself included.

"Due to proximity to other services which residents would access, the downtown core is often seen as an ideal location to ensure ease of access to those services." This is a deceptive excuse that has already been used in the past in Hamilton and in other cities with disastrous results. This is precisely how urban ghettos were and are created. Services shall be provided in situ at the emergency shelter, wherever it is located, this is the year 2020 and it can be done.

Furthermore, under the heading "Operations" the document reads: "Primary healthcare will be provided by a nurse practitioner employed by Good Shepherd and doctors from the Shelter Health Network. Harm reduction support will be provided. Shelter staff offer case management services including referrals, advocacy and supportive counseling. Housing and support services will be offered to every resident."

If this is true, then there is no need to locate the emergency shelter in Stinson, as the services will be provided already "in house" somewhere else.

It feels like the most marginalized and at-risk populations are herded into one single area. The intentional creation of a ghetto indicates wrong-doing and abuse of the emergency order process. The unintentional creation of a ghetto indicates ignorance and negligence. Both instances constitute cause for the revocation of the emergency order. To live in a ghetto endangers me, my security and my well-being as well as the security and the well-being of my family and my community, especially during Covid-19.

5. "It is obvious to many residents that this was a hasty decision to expedite the approval of a capital project at First Ontario Centre. Why didn't the shelter there continue to operate? Are there other shelters opening in other wards?

As the City of Hamilton moves into Phase 3 of its re-opening plan, many businesses are returning to regular operations. This includes First Ontario Centre.

Many service providers feel that Sir John A. Macdonald was a better choice. Why wasn't this site chosen instead? Factors such as size of building, degree of renovations required, and facilities on site such as showers, etc are factors in making the decision of location. Sir John A MacDonald was a less feasible choice."

Here my question echo's the voices of Stinson residents: Is Sir John A. Macdonald part of the downtown mega development plan and was this the real reason or one of the reasons it was not chosen?

After receiving the news of the opening of the emergency shelter, some neighbours have put their house for sale or are intending to do it. The buzz word in Stinson is that the City is concentrating the most vulnerable population in our neighbourhood with the nefarious intention to control the pandemic by creating a Covid-19 Ghetto and thus maintain the rest of Hamilton open for business. I also have come to believe this.

Most people believe that the "emergency order decision" is directly related to the mega real estate development plans for downtown. This could constitute cause for the revocation of the emergency order, as it may indicate wrong-doing, third parties' interests and abuse of the emergency order process.

The optics are bad and a public inquiry of how "this led to that" going back at least to 2015 shall be opened and the matter shall be investigated by City Council without delay.

6. "Who is advocating for residents of existing RCF's and shelters in the neighbourhood? There is a program review of Subsidized RCFs currently underway, led by Housing Services Division of the City of Hamilton. As part of this review, increased collaboration with other support sectors such as Health Care are being explored in order to provide an increased level of mental health and related supports."

"How many residential group homes, shelters other assisted/supportive living homes are already in operation in this neighbourhood/ward?

There are 14 RCFs and 1 Shelter located within Ward 3."

These 2 points support our arguments that Stinson needs immediate assistance and NOT ADDED STRESSORS, especially during the pandemic and that the decision to open the emergency shelter at Main and Emerald, was flawed and dangerous and the historical facts were probably known to most of the actors that invoked the "emergency order".

6. "What are the long-term plans for Cathedral Boys' School? Longer term, Good Shepherd would like to develop a Senior's 'hub' that would combine affordable housing with support services that would be more broadly available to the community. An important part of this development would be incorporating the historic original school into the project."

I found some consolation in this last answer until a senior neighbor raised another red flag: "Any person above 50 qualifies as a senior and some are "trouble" and not just impoverished elders."

I had envisioned a kind of affordable housing for law abiding seniors that would contribute with their presence to bring stability to our area.

I copy paste the latest email I received:

"A few people have asked
Do we know what premise the city is directing taxpayer's money to good shepherd?
Should we be emailing the police chief, or anyone else on the force?
Do we keep resenting the same emails every few days given we feel we are being ignored with the lack of response from anyone?"

What do I tell them?

It is the Mayor and City Council's duty to keep us safe, especially during Covid-19.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ON TEMPORARY SHELTER SERVICES

This document contains a summary to the questions my office has received in relation to the September opening of a temporary shelter at 378 Main St. E.

Community Relationships & Communication

What agencies were consulted in the creation of this shelter and how was that consultation completed?

During this pandemic, the City of Hamilton struck a coordinating table with local agencies serving people experiencing homelessness to align responses, resources and to collaborate on addressing the complex health and housing needs. Consequently, the need to expand the capacity within the shelter system and options for achieving it continues to be discussed with sector partners.

Many residents have indicated interest in volunteering, who can they contact?

Good Shepherd welcomes those interested in becoming volunteers to apply here:

<https://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/volunteer/>

Why was there no consultation with adjacent neighbours?

Due to the Global Pandemic, the Emergency Operations Centre at the City of Hamilton has made a number of difficult decisions in a very short time frame, consultation was not possible. Under normal circumstances, the City of Hamilton consults as regular practice, which normally takes 12-18 months. Consultation of this type was not possible in light of COVID-19.

Has there been any consultation with local businesses?

Unfortunately not. The same situation as described above relates in terms of consultation with local business.

When neighbourhood/community association meetings resume, will a representative from Good Shepherd attend?

Yes, Good Shepherd would be pleased to attend both GALA and Stinson Community meetings.

Operations

What amenities will be available to residents staying at the shelter?

Shelter residents will be accommodated in shared bedroom (4 – 5 per room) that will provide barriers/screens to offer some privacy and infection prevention. The shelter will offer residents 3 meals/day, bagged lunches for those who need to be away from the shelter during a mealtime and snacks. Primary healthcare will be provided by a nurse practitioner employed by Good Shepherd and doctors from the Shelter Health Network. Harm reduction support will be provided. Shelter staff offer case management services including referrals, advocacy and supportive counselling. Housing support services will be offered to every resident.

Will there be 24/7 security and cameras?

The Cathedral site is equipped with security cameras. The shelter will be staffed 24/7. Formal safety and security policies will be in place.

The neighbourhood has a high parking load already. Is there designated parking for staff?

Yes. Good Shepherd Staff will utilize the back parking lot.

Will residents of the shelter have outdoor space?

Yes, Good Shepherd will create a designated outdoor space at the back of the building, with measures taken to protect the privacy of both shelter residents and adjacent neighbours.

Will there be a curfew in place?

Shelter occupancy is confirmed each night at 10 pm. Residents may arrive back to shelter later than 10 pm (e.g. working a late shift) if pre-arranged with staff. Residents are encouraged to remain on shelter property after this time however, there are no curfew policies in place.

How will non residents be discouraged from congregating outside the building?

Staff monitor activity on and adjacent to shelter sites. Residents may not entertain guests on site. Non-residents will be asked to leave the property and actively discouraged from congregating on adjacent sidewalks etc.

What makes you think that Cathedral will be any more successful than the First Ontario?

The shelter at First Ontario has offered a safe, hospitable environment for single men experiencing homelessness. Good Shepherd has no authority over the space outside of the FOC that is currently an encampment site. Staff do monitor that area and actively offer shelter services but we do not direct any activity outside of the FOC. At the Cathedral site, Good Shepherd will be responsible for activity both inside and outside of the building. We will not accommodate campers on this site. We will, however, work with individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services.

How does Good Shepherd's approach to substance use differ from that of police? Good Shepherd strives to work within a harm reduction framework. We provide sharps containers and harm reduction kits at our sites. We host harm reduction and addiction services in our programs. We have no desire to further stigmatize or criminalize people due to their substance use. We do, however, advise shelter residents that drug use in shelter is not permitted. We will discharge an individual from the shelter if there is persistent evidence of onsite drug use (unsafe disposal of needles, impairment that puts individual, other clients and/or staff at risk). We are also vigilant in discouraging drug trade on or near our sites.

Will Good Shepherd be working with the Social Navigator, Hamilton Paramedics and Keeping six?

Good Shepherd already works with the Social Navigator, Keeping Six, Paramedics and many

other stakeholders engaged in supporting people who are precariously housed or experiencing homelessness. These relationships will remain important to our work at the Cathedral site.

Site & Location

How was the Former Cathedral Boys' School site chosen for this facility?

The property is privately owned by the Catholic Diocese who offered the site for this purpose to the Good Shepherd in response to the population needs. Upon review, the site was in appropriate state of use and contained the amenities most appropriate for shelter use including: showers, gym, overnight accommodation and day programming use.

In addition to an expansion at the Salvation Army, the Cathedral Boy's site was the only facility available, which could be easily transformed into a shelter in a reasonable time and for a reasonable cost.

Who approached the Diocese? Will they be compensated/reimbursed for use of the space?

Good Shepherd approached the Diocese and they have a lease in place.

What is the hard end date for this use? Is there one?

June 2021 is the approved end date for this temporary use. However, it is also dependent on what unfolds with the pandemic and potential second wave. Extending beyond this date would require Council approval and additional funding.

Why are these facilities so concentrated in Landsdale and Stinson? How was this factored into the decision?

There are a number of social service type agencies in the central lower city, such as shelters, Residential Care Facilities, and others. Many of these programs have long standing histories in the neighbourhood that date back 30+ years.

Due to proximity to other services which residents would access, the downtown core is often seen as an ideal location to ensure ease of access to those services.

Who is advocating for residents of existing RCF's and shelters in the neighbourhood?

There is a program review of Subsidized RCFs currently underway, lead by Housing Services Division of the City of Hamilton. As part of this review, increased collaboration with other support sectors such as Health Care are being explored in order to provide an increased level of mental health and related supports.

How many residential group homes, shelters other assisted/supportive living homes are already in operation in this neighbourhood/ward?

There are 14 RCFs and 1 Shelter located within Ward 3.

It is obvious to many residents that this was a hasty decision to expedite the approval of a capital project at First Ontario Centre. Why didn't the shelter there continue to operate? Are there other shelters opening in other wards?

As the City of Hamilton moves into Phase 3 of it's re-opening plan, many businesses are returning to regular operations. This includes First Ontario Centre.

Many service providers feel that Sir John A. Macdonald was a better choice. Why wasn't this site chosen instead?

Factors such as size of building, degree of renovations required, and facilities on site such as showers, etc are factors in making the decision of location. Sir John A MacDonald was a less feasible choice.

Feedback & Future Action

Will Digital Canaries Studio return to CBS or will other TV/Movie shooting return to the building?

Digital Canaries Studio have secured another location with the Diocese in the City. Whether filming occur in the building in the future is up to the property owner. However the future use goal is to transform the site into affordable and mixed-income senior housing.

What are the long term plans for Cathedral Boys' School?

Longer term, Good Shepherd would like to develop a Senior's 'hub' that would combine affordable housing with support services that would be more broadly available to the community. An important part of this development would be incorporating the historic original school into the project.

Contact Information

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September 11 2020

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Councillor Nann:

I am a resident of Ward 3/ Stinson.

A few weeks ago Stinson community members had interactions with the scouts from the "tenting camps" exploring Stinson green spaces in advance of the opening of Motel Cathedral with the intention of being close to their services. They said that they will be back. This is a photo of a tent that in the alleyway behind Cathedral was taken today. The neighbors informed that the tenter is aggressive and consuming drugs.

I watched yesterday the meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee. I had submitted 2 documents and none of my concerns were addressed.

There was no one word regarding extra security measures or measures to prevent a outbreak of Covid-19 in Stinson:

1. Not one word about the extraordinary Covid-19 safety protocols that need to be implemented when the "temporary" emergency shelter opens at Old Cathedral Boys School.

2. Not one word about cleaning crews to remove bio-hazard materials from the neighborhood, not only needles and condoms but human feces. Human feces and urine had manifested as a grave problem around the "tent encampment sites" in downtown Hamilton and in Toronto and BC. Human feces and urine are both bio-hazard materials that may carry the virus and contaminate shoes. City Hall shall provide more cleaning crews instead of less and the cleaning crews shall work under the protection of trained security teams.

3. Not one word about daily sanitation of Stinson sidewalks and public and private parking spaces with Eco-friendly products to prevent the community spread of the virus in Stinson.

4. No one word regarding enhanced pandemic sanitation measures at Motel Cathedral, for instance: Good Shepherd shall provide 24/7 washrooms attendants because as the emergency shelter will shelter, by definition, a constant transient population of 45 plus men overnight + the numerous people who access the facilities during the day without spending the night in the shelter, there shall be 24/7 employees, in full Covid-19 protection gear, sanitizing the toilets and the showers after each use. The toilets need to be equipped with toilet LIDS to stop the Covid19 to be airborne after each flush and infect the surrounding area.

5. No one word regarding how to prevent the flood of tents into the 3 green spaces/ parkettes situated in Hunter, for instance:

For the time that this particular shelter (Motel Cathedral) remains open, the services that historically the Good Shepherd Ministries has offered to "the individuals who are not registered in shelter but who approach us seeking other kinds of housing help or support services." shall be suspended.

The support services the homeless desperately need are food, toilets and showers. As a Covid-19 extraordinary precautionary measure, the doors of Motel Cathedral shall be closed to all-non residents. These Good Shepherd Ministries services to individuals who are not registered in the shelter shall be suspended in this location due to Covid-19 Community distancing protocols and these vital services shall be offered at a different location. If the tenting folk needs are served outside of Stinson, this will stop the tenting camp from setting in Stinson and it will reduce the compounded risk of a Covid-19 outbreak that my community is facing at the moment.

6. Not one single answer to ANY of the questions I collected from the neighbors.

7. Read in Global News: <https://apple.news/AB4QusTeMRjOvx34mFBbj3A>

Please, advice us asap on how to proceed. Pleas asing an independent advocate for Stinson because we are simple folk and we do not know the rules of how City Hall funtions. Ward 3 Councillor Nann went on vacation after she invoked the "emergency order"; an emergency order is invoked in extremely rare occasions, war and pandemics. It would have been reasanoble that a polititian after invoking an emergency order remain working to assist his/her constituents during the emergency.

Carmen Orlandis.

September 14 2020

Coun. Nann: The article "Residents push back on Old Cathedral boy's plan", by Teviah Moro, reads in part :

Coun. Ninder Nann rejects claims from some Ward 3 residents that city officials "deliberately and maliciously" withheld a plan to turn a former school into a temporary shelter.

"I want to acknowledge that these kinds of decisions in an emergency setting have a very rapid nature."

"Nann noted that she learned of the plan for Old Cathedral in early July and by the end of that month started promoting an Aug. 11 online feedback session." An online session attended by 32 people (followers) from a population of 41,000+ is NOT public consultation. No wonder that the "feedback" was mostly positive. No one knew about it! We do not accept in any way that this was a public consultation and we maintain that the entire process was neither open nor transparent and indeed, deliberate. The most recent entry in the news section of your website is July 5, 2019. And the most recent entry in your "Information Update" is dated November 27, 2019. Where exactly did you promote this so-called feedback session? Where was the robust communication system that you promised leading up to your being elected in Ward 3? Also, leading up to the election, you said that you would "establish a monthly email and web newsletter to keep residents up to date, and price out the cost of doing periodic printed and post delivered updates, because not everyone is on social media."

By any measure, you cannot keep making the perfidious claim that you "promoted" anything.

"John said the city looked at other locations for the temporary shelter but landed on Old Cathedral as the best option.

He acknowledged some residents' concerns about a high concentration of lodging homes in the neighborhood." Teviah Moro, The Spectator.

Indeed we claim that the "plan" was deliberately withheld, according to your own words in your Zoom infomercial, but unfortunately, we have come to sincerely believe that the plan of opening the emergency shelter in Stinson during Covid-19 is a neglectful urban strategy or it is a malicious strategy aimed to contain a Covid-19 outbreak in one section of the Hamilton, in our neighbourhood. We have come to this sincere belief with a heavy heart. Our feelings on the subject were generated by the total lack of transparency of the process. We are common folk already exhausted by 6 months of pandemic and we have limited access to information.

It is possible that somebody else misled you in this affair. If so, we expect that you rise now to the occasion and make immediately public the information you have. To begin with, we need to know:

1. Who really owns the building? The Cultural Heritage Report, 2018, names as the owner, Good Shepherd Hamilton. You will find this information in City Hall Property Register. In your selective FAQ you state that "Good Shepherd approached the Diocese and they have a lease in place." If there is a "lease" as you claim, who are the named parties on the lease? What are the terms? Will you make this

document public? Also, in your FAQ, you failed to answer the additional questions: Will they be compensated/reimbursed for use of the space? Will they?

2. "Nann noted she learned of the plan for Old Cathedral in early July". The date is important...what day? We deduced that "you learned of the plan" means that "somebody else" hatched it. Who approached you with the plan? Do you have contemporaneous notes?

3. What is the name of the person/s who "counseled" you to keep the plan secret?

4. Independent journalist Joey Coleman's Tweet:"City Manager's office just deleted video of last week's meeting of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee from YouTube." He has now requested this video under the "Freedom of Information Act". We ask you to look into the matter and to use your Councillor position to release this video to the public immediately, so that given the urgency of the matter we do not have to wait for many months before it is released. You shall also require the name/s of the persons who requested for this video to be deleted and the reasons they alleged for this action. The public has a right to know who and why.

We are normal folk and our ability to bring to the light occult facts is limited. Transparency is now the only way that you can prove to your constituents that you were misled by others. Your silence so far has been a strong contributor to the community buzz that the plan to use an "emergency order" to create a Covid-19 ghetto in Stinson is unfolding.

Carmen Orlandis