

November 13, 2021

Board of Health,
City of Hamilton

To whom it may Concern,

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SAFE INJECTION SITE 746 BARTON STREET EAST BETWEEN BARNESDALE AVE. N. AND LOTTRIDGE

A proposed Safe Injection Site by The Aids Network is planned for 746 Barton St. E., Ward 3 Neighborhood. I object to this proposed site given approval by the Mayor, City Council and the Health Department without any consideration, consultation or research on this project with the residents of this Area of Ward 3. The business owners and residents of this area of Ward 3 have done a great deal of work to improve the street, properties and alleyways but were not consulted. The residents and business owners found out about the proposed Injection Site by a small notice by The Aids Network in the Spectator with no mention of the address. As well, a representative of TAN passed a business card out to one of the residents at the corner of Barnesdale and Barton. This resident is a 79-year-old retired Steelworker and is next door to the proposed site. What does this do to the value of his property and the personal security of both himself and his wife?

This proposed site is 170 meters from St. Ann's Elementary School and Day Care. Prince of Wales Elementary School on Lottridge and Bernie Custis High School on Cannon St. are close by the proposed site. Good Shepherd, who put forward a letter of support for the site not knowing the location recently opened a Home Program in the former Ukrainian Elementary School. There are three churches close by on Barton St. between Barnesdale and Sherman Ave. N. where many seniors and families attend religious services. The older children from St. Ann's and Prince of Wales walk to MacDonald's at the corner of Lottridge and Barton as well the Polish Deli on Barton Street for lunch. Also, located two doors down from 746 Barton is the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association at 752 – 754 which provides programs and services for youth, families and seniors. Portuguese Support Services offer a large day program for adults with developmental disabilities located at 760 Barton Street East. This center is located 38 m from the proposed site. Some of the clients' volunteer at several businesses, shop and eat at the local restaurants. They also participate in community clean up and activities in the area as well attend Tiger-Cat practices and users of nearby parks. Staff and participants of the program can be seen walking on the area streets.

Many families who have loved ones take part in programs at both of those important centers have stated their loved ones will not attend due to safety concerns if the proposed injection site is approved. The Chairs of both school boards did not know about the proposed site until contacted by myself and Walter Furlan, Furlan Conservation 765 – 767 Barton Street East. TAN has given misleading information on this proposed injection site. There are two Barton #2 bus routes close to 746 – one going east and one going west. Many seniors and young families use city transit. Many seniors in this neighborhood walk to McDonalds for coffee or meet their friends for lunch and walk by 746 Barton. One senior I know lives on Beechwood 84 years old and walks to Freshco at Gage and Barton as well as McDonalds. I have put in calls to Clr. Nann over two weeks ago and no response until Friday past but no direct conversation only an e-mail that she will be attending a meeting on Nov. 16 at the Portuguese Centre. I also sent an email to the Mayor, no response. I left a message for Elizabeth Richardson no response.

I spoke with Jeff Valentine, the owner of the property at 746 Barton and he informed me that he is in favor of the site and TAN approached him over 1 ½ years ago to lease this space. The City of Hamilton within the past couple of weeks sent a notice to residents by Canada Post deliver concerning a proposed splash pad at Woodlands Park which is located at Wentworth St. and has no bearing on our neighborhood. Did our neighborhood not deserved the same respect in having notice and consultations on this proposed injection site? Why is this part of Barton St. which is upcoming where business owners and property owners take pride in keeping it clean? What council and the health department are doing is inviting illegal drug dealers to the area. We have walked this area including alleyways daily for over twenty years without problems and the only needle discovered was about two months ago at the corner of Rosemont and Lottridge across from Prince of Wales School, my husband saw one on the street. My husband walks our puppy every morning at 7 – 7:30 through alleyways along Barton St., Ruth, Sherman, Barnesdale, Lottridge, Lucy Day Park, alley from Sherman to Powell Park and only saw that one needle at Rosemont and Lottridge.

About two weeks ago, I had an appointment for the Spinal Clinic at Urban Core, which has a safe injection site. I could not enter the building without knocking on the door for a worker to unlock the front door and let me inside.

When I was finished my appointment, I had to wait inside for my husband Bob to pick me up and take me home. I was informed by a worker to wait inside because of safety concerns for me outside due to people having mental health issues and high on drugs. The door is locked for the safety of staff inside. The garbage and other things outside of the Urban Core building were disgusting especially with people harassing other people walking by or coming into the building. Yesterday, November 13, approximately 4:30, my husband Bob and myself were driving along Rebecca St. and noticed on the sidewalk outside of the Urban Core some people were trying to drag a person off the street so a vehicle would not hit the person. I have attached a picture and a picture of the garbage at the end of the building to my e-mail. Is this what Hamilton City Council, the Mayor and Health Department want for us in this part of Ward 3? Would you, Dr. Richardson, the Mayor or other council members want a safe injection site close to where you live and your children go to school, church or other activities like Ticats football game? I don't think so. We have lived in this part of Ward 3 for 28 years and have not witnessed a problem with street drugs? By approving this site at 746 Barton St. shows you have no concern or respect for the residents or business of this neighborhood in Ward 3.

We are not against Safe Injection Site but not in our neighborhood. This part of Barton St. is up and coming very busy with traffic and cannot handle the problems the injection site would bring to it. Who would pay for policing, EMS, clean up etc. with the many problems it could create? The alleyway behind 746 cannot be closed due to fire regulations.

Please respect our wishes and concerns do not approve this site at 746 Barton St. E. for the owner it is just a business deal without consequences.

Thank you.
Lena Sutton



