

4.7 (a)

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter today with great concern about the proposed safe injection site at 746 Barton Street East Hamilton. As a business owner and property owner less than 10 meters away, I am deeply concerned that this chosen site is not the right location for this type of service. The area that the proposed site is going, is between Barnsedale ave and Lottridge street. This area has recently seen an influx in businesses, shops and restaurants. The area is becoming a safe, nice place for people to live and business owners to invest. Many of the current businesses rely on walk up business and depend on a clean, safe neighborhood to operate. The addition of the safe injection site will directly affect the revenue and longevity of these businesses. There are a list of business owners who are very upset about this and are worried that their livelihood will be taken away from them, myself included. As tax paying citizens and business owners we feel we are justified in attempting to block this from happening. The property and business owners have single handedly revitalized this area through injecting their own money into the beautification of the properties that line this block as well as creating businesses that attract people from all over the city to come and spend their taxed dollars in this area. The residential units above these businesses have mostly been renovated and we have attracted blue collar workers, as well as many young professionals. This injection site will directly reverse all the good this neighborhood has witnessed. People will not want to come down to a café or restaurant with potential to have dangerous activities happen. I personally have two tenants who are already very concerned and thinking they may want to live elsewhere if this happens. These are both young professionals who spend their tax dollars on the pie shop, the restaurant, the bakery, the café, the appliance store, the restoration shop, not to mention the rest of the businesses in the area. There are also two very sought after programs that two businesses offer, where people from all over the city and outside of the city come to bring their families and individuals in need of these services. Both business owners were at the meeting with the ward counselor, as well as parents of the affected children in these programs who were crying, and these folks were all ignored. There are also schools and churches within this community that are outraged.

As a business and property owner in this area, as well as a long time Hamilton citizen, I am not seeing how this sort of decision is fair or warranted in this vicinity? How was this area considered? With the revitalization of this specific block, how can we as Hamiltonians as well as business owners sit back and let our hard work, determination and resiliency all be lost after working so hard to make this street great again? The owner of the proposed injection site is trying to uproot the café that has an existing lease there and brings tax paying citizens into her business regularly. Does this seem fair that we are uprooting a successful business to bring in an injection site that will not only displace that business but also bring down the revenue of the other existing businesses?

I am not here to argue one way or the other whether an injection site is needed or improves the city, I just know it will be a detriment to this specific area, and that requires consideration. Please take the time to consider this and help prevent this from happening. There are better site areas that can be arranged. If needed I can look at providing a better option.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Maggio