

Community Opposition to Proposed Consumption Site at 746 Barton Street
East
Petition and Correspondence Package
Board of Health
February 13, 2023

The petition is a duplicate that appears on the December 15, 2021 Council Agenda.

The correspondence packages are duplicates that appear on the Board of Health agenda for November 15, 2021, and Council on November 24, 2021 and December 15, 2021.

A copy of the petition can be viewed in-person, at the Clerk's Office

Please see the following agendas for reference to the correspondence and the petition in this package:

[Board of Health, November 15, 2021](#) Item 5.4

[Council, November 24, 2021](#) Item 5.1

[Council, December 15, 2021](#) Item 4.7

**COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CONSUMPTION SITE
AT 746 BARTON STREET EAST, HAMILTON
September 26, 2022**

To:

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Flr
777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Enclosures:

- Briefing package, including a Community Snapshot of nearby amenities and summarizing community opposition in specific context of the Provincial Ministry of Health Consumption Treatment Site (CTS) funding program.
- Letters of opposition from individuals, agencies, churches and business in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location
- Petitions of opposition, with signatures numbering approximately 1,200+ at the time of this mailing.

Submitted by:

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval, for the neighbours and business on Barton

Dear Minister Jones,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2021, The AIDS Network (TAN) was endorsed by Hamilton's Board of Health (BoH) to pursue an injection site "anywhere" in Ward 3, Hamilton. At the time of the endorsement, the BoH was aware of the site's address at 746 Barton St. East, yet no questions were asked about the appropriateness of the location, whether community consultation had taken place, or its proximity to vulnerable populations. It appears **no vetting or screening** of the location was undertaken by the BoH at all.

In fact, the address was **purposefully kept secret** from the community until it was approved by the City, **no community consultation was undertaken** and it is in **very close proximity (less than 200m) to multiple vulnerable populations**, including school and pre-school aged children (schools and day-cares), people with a disability and seniors.

The City of Hamilton failed in its responsibility to vet the site prior to approval of the location, in contrast to communities such as Cambridge and Barrie who have undergone extensive reviews of potential injection sites that has included robust community consultation. Ward 3 councillor Nann stated to our community group that the City has **no influence** in the eventual CTS location. At the time of their announcement last year, TAN stated publicly that they intended to submit the full application within 2 weeks. We are now approaching the 1-year anniversary of the city's endorsement of TAN's pursuit of an injection clinic but the application does not seem to have moved forward at all. No community consultation has taken place.

Step 2 in the 3-step¹ CTS approval process is a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. TAN has failed to begin the basic consultation with the community. They have also failed to (i) Make a case for the need of this service based on the number of drug-related overdoses and deaths in local area – Hamilton Public Health's own data shows the greatest need is downtown; (ii) Intended health and safety impact of site on target population, general public and local area – as mentioned, the proposed location of the injection clinic is very near services for people with a disability, schools, daycares, businesses and adjacent to two residential buildings; (iii) Community Consultation report - This information is gathered to understand the efforts that have been made to engage with the community to inform them of the proposal and ensure that the voices of community members have been heard – this has not yet been done, in fact the proponent has sought to discredit and belittle community members concerns.

We are not against supports for people with addictions, including, where appropriate, injection sites. The current illicit drug crisis is complex and tragic. You will see, however from the material provided herein, that the proposed CTS location at 746 Barton Street East is deficient in many of

¹ Step 3 is funding approval under the provincial Consumption Treatment Site funding program of the Ministry of Health. Of note, an injection clinic may operate if they secure federal approval but fail to get provincial funding.

the federal criteria. It is deficient in many of the provincial funding criteria as well, as laid out in the following pages.

As mentioned, this application has been pending for almost 12 months. We hope that we can count on your support to immediately end consideration of the proposed CTS location² at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. It is an inappropriate location that will fail to meet provincial funding requirements for proximity to vulnerable populations, community consultation and physical layout of the facility (which would require extensive capital improvements to meet basic accessibility, HVAC and other health/building code requirements).

We would be very pleased to provide clarification or discuss this with you at your convenience.

² According to Blaine Bouchard, Manager, Ministry of Health, TAN has submitted a partial application to the CTS funding program.

Community Snapshot



X – 746 Barton Street East, location of proposed CTS. Currently occupied by a restaurant with a lease to May 2023.

1 and 2 - 740 and 748 Barton, occupied residential buildings immediately adjacent to the site, one owned by the resident, the other a rental.

3 - 747 Barton, Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings, boxing and other programming for inner city children, run by a former Olympian.

4 – 752 Barton, African Caribbean Cultural Association – A charity to “facilitate and foster community engagement and empowerment for all members of our community including youth.”

5 – 760 Barton, Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living, a charity providing “a safe, supportive and caring environment for individuals & families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities.”

6 – 15 St Olga (fronts at 730 Barton), **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church**, **the Ukrainian Day School (daycare pending)**, and the reknown **Barvinok Ukrainian School of Dance**, in addition to other community groups/events.

7 – 8 St. Ann St (fronts at ~720 Barton), **St. Stanislaus Polish Church**, hosts various community groups/events.

8 – 15 St. Ann St., **St. Ann Catholic Elementary School**; **St Ann Early Years Centre**

9 – 120 Sherman Av N (fronts at ~686 Barton St.), **St. Ann Catholic Church**, hosts various community groups/events.

10 – 4 Solidarnosc Place, **Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315**

There are also innumerable small, family run businesses and residences in the immediate area.

Also of note, there are:

METHADONE CLINICS at:

- . Vista Addiction Treatment Clinic, **847 Barton St E**
- . The Stiplely Clinic, **707 Barton St E**
- . ACT Methadone Clinic, **664 Barton St E**

MARIJUANA RETAILERS at:

- . Matrix Cannabis Company, **774 Barton St E**
- . Cannabis House Co, **800 Barton St E**
- . And one coming soon to **859 Barton St E**

- Sex Workers Action Program, 771 Barton St. E

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information regarding local conditions, proximity and community opposition with respect to The AIDS Network's (TAN) proposal to operate a CTS at 746 Barton St. E. in Hamilton. This document is the culmination of literally hundreds of hours of research by volunteer resident and business owners who care about our community. A pen-to-paper petition of opposition currently has more than 1,200 signatures. In summary:

- **This application needs to be rejected outright. A CTS at this location is in direct proximity to vulnerable populations, specifically young adults with special needs, school aged and pre-school aged children, and seniors.**
- **The location is not evidence-based, according to Hamilton Public Health's own data, and does not represent prudent stewardship of public funds.**
- **The City of Hamilton does not feel they have a role in vetting the location of this service. They have neglected this responsibility to the applicant, to the community, to the Federal and Provincial government decision makers, and importantly to the clients of the service. Finding a willing landlord to house the service seems to have been the only criteria for choosing this location.**
- **TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.**

You will see significant flaws in process have preceded the submission of this, as far as we know, still partial application. The local community has not been appropriately consulted. The Board of Health (BoH) approval process failed to meet reasonable due diligence standards. The exact location of the site was withheld until after local approval – there was no opportunity for community consultation or input. The City's own data does not support the need for this service at this location. It will result in an overconcentration of drug and justice system-related services in our immediate community.

Our intention is not to disparage The AIDS Network, and we acknowledge that the illicit drug crisis is a very complex and tragic issue. **We are not disputing the need for a service**, but have serious concerns about the specific location being proposed and the process, or lack of, that has gotten us here.

Brief Timeline:

- **December 2019**, from CBC Hamilton, the City of Hamilton announces it has chosen the site for a second injection site, but the site location "will be made public when the city submits an application to the province's health ministry."³
- **March 2020**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "The city has looked at 29 locations... But in some instances, the locales haven't been large enough or were too close to facilities like schools, which the province deems sensitive."⁴
- Nothing apparently came of the 2019-20 efforts... very little or no news reports appear until about 1.5 years later...
- **On or around October 12**, date Ward 3 councillor Nrinder Nann says she first becomes aware of the address of the proposed site (see councillor Nann's email, Appendix A of this document)

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/second-safe-injection-location-1.5387376>

⁴ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/19/city-has-looked-at-29-sites-for-supervised-injection-site-in-hamilton.html>

- **October 19, 2021**, from the Hamilton Spectator, “Hamilton’s board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid... (by) the AIDS Network... for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E...”⁵
- **October 20, 2021**, we (stakeholders on the block of 746 Barton) hear about this initiative in the media. We immediately request a meeting with our councillor and with TAN. Our councillor gives us a meeting date of November 16.
- **October 29, 2021**, TAN attends an in-person meeting at 765 Barton with a few community members. Of note, they specifically state that the data has identified the Barton-Lottridge intersection as a hot-spot for drug overdoses. This is false. No such data exists. They specifically state that they were under no obligation to consult with St. Ann’s School or St. Ann’s Day Care, since they were beyond the 200m radial guideline. When confronted with a map, they acknowledged the school and daycare to be 170m from the proposed location.
- **November 16, 2021**, Councillor Nann, TAN and other supporters attend a community meeting organized by Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living at their office. This agency serves young adults with special needs. Approximately 25 people are in attendance, including families of the participants, staff and community members. Many parents speak of the difficulty in finding quality programming for their children, and praising the work of PSSQL. They explain how their children can become very frightened by loud noises, sirens and people behaving erratically. Councillor Nann is presented with a petition of approximately 600 signatures (the number collected at that time). One member of the TAN delegation minimizes community concerns as “NIMBY-ism”.
- **November 20, 2021**, an article appears in the Hamilton Spectator <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/20/aids-network-supervised-drug-consumption-site-barton-street-east.html>
- **November 21, 2021**, TAN re-posts the article and accompanying photo on social media (see Appendix C). They claim they have reached out to the people mentioned in the article “without response or engagement”. This is patently untrue and is meant to discredit our group. We have initiated contact and have emailed TAN several times with questions (and they have replied – so they can’t say they haven’t been acknowledged). Other stakeholders, such as the African Caribbean Association (quoted), Karlik Pastry (in photo), and neighbours (also in the photo) had not been consulted at all by TAN.
- Furthermore, TAN state in the post that they’ve been trying to engage for “months”, however this site has only been made public since October 19. They admit in the Spectator article they purposefully withheld the location of the site to prevent “conflict and controversy”. Regrettably this has been the very result their approach has achieved.
- **November 30, 2021**, Community petition against the location of the proposed CTS reaches 750+ with more coming in every day.
- **December 2, 2021**, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shares a report. The city’s own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage, confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- **December 3, 2021**, TAN places an opinion piece in the Hamilton Spectator, failing to acknowledge or address community concerns by saying we are among “those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business, or organization.” <https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/12/03/new-consumption-and-treatment-site-in-hamilton-will-help-save-lives.html> . Unfortunately, opinion pieces in opposition (we know of at least three, including our own submissions) are not being published by the Spec.
- **December 6, 2021**, Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton, attends a meeting at our invitation. She indicates the city was aware of the location of the site in mid-August, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/19/safe-consumption-site.html>

- **May 17, 2022**, after months of requests, Councillor Nann meets with our group for the first time. She provides her understanding of the CTS approval process and confirms the City of Hamilton has no say in influencing or directing the location of an injection clinic.
- **As of September 26, 2022** there has still been no communication or engagement from the proponent to the community.

REASONS FOR OPPOSITION

1. Local Conditions:

The AIDS Network (TAN) spokesperson told us at the meeting of October 29, 2021, that, unequivocally, the 746 Barton site selection was strictly "**evidence based**" (their words), driven by City of Hamilton EMS data. Furthermore, they described an unusually specific concentration of problems in the exact vicinity of Barton and Barnesdale, where they want the site to go.

This is not what the data show⁶ (see Figure 1). The vicinity of 746 Barton is not a hot-spot. When pressed, TAN provided us further data which included ward-wide statistics, but nothing specific to our neighbourhood.

The black X in Figure 1 is the approximate location of 746 Barton St E. Note that the neighbourhood around 746 is actually on par with most of the rest of the lower city in terms of calls.

The blue X is the location of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's recently closed (and temporarily relocated) CTS. Note the concentration of EMS calls in the immediate vicinity of that site.

The red X is the new location of the HUCCHC's consumption site on Cannon Street. It is obvious that this area of the city is not the greatest area of need, yet it will be home to two CTS' in very close proximity.

With the closure of HUCCHC's Rebecca St location downtown (the blue X), there will be a significant gap in services in that part of the city. An evidence-based approach would see a new CTS open to serve that need. The Barton – Cannon area will be overserved with CTS. It stands to reason that clients losing the

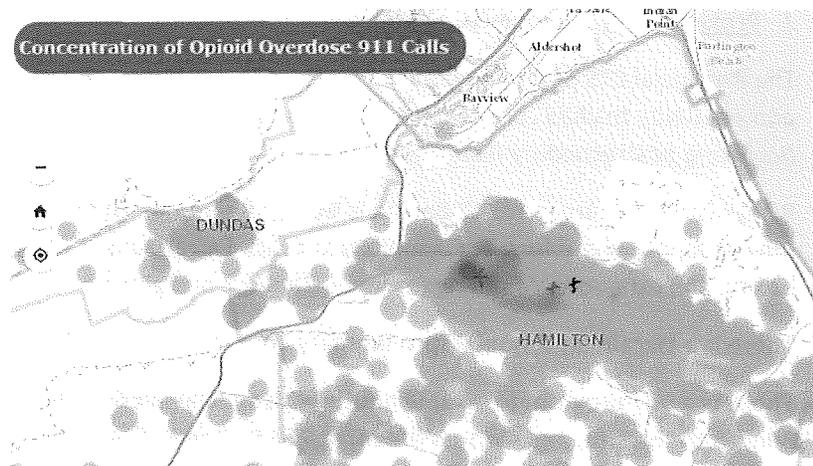


Figure 1 Paramedic incidents in Hamilton related to opioid overdose, 2017-2021
Of note, the data in Figure 1 are for the period of 2017-2021. When one filters the data for 2020-2021, the contrast is even more stark.

⁶ <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/hamilton-opioid-information-system-opioid-overdoses>

service downtown will migrate into our neighbourhood. It is felt that this is part of a larger strategy to respond to the gentrification pressures downtown⁷.

We requested, and were granted a meeting with Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton. We reviewed the data with her, and it confirmed our understanding that the need is greatest in Ward 2 and there is no particular “hot spot” in our neighbourhood.

Ours is a neighbourhood with challenges, but the City of Hamilton’s own data does not corroborate the concentration of, or the need for, a consumption site (and especially a second CTS) in our neighbourhood.

2. Proximity to vulnerable populations

The Provincial CTS program guidelines state: *CTS will not be concentrated in one area or neighbourhood, and proximity to child care centres, parks and/or schools (including postsecondary institutions) will be considered.*

Right across the street at 747 Barton is **Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings**, where former Olympic boxer Nick Farrell runs boxing and other programming for inner city boys and girls.⁸

There is a Ukrainian School approximately 30m away.

There is a day program for young adults with special needs only 30m from the site, and 4 doors down, at 760 Barton St E, called Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living (PSSQL)/ LUSO Charity. Their participants walk (or use a wheelchair) and take the bus to community volunteering opportunities. The proposed CTS is located between them and the nearby park – participants and workers will need to pass right by this site when coming and going from their centre.



Figure 2 PSSQL participants working / volunteering at Furlan Conservation, Barton Street, (Hamilton Spectator, Feb 2015)

While this is not a “licenced day care”, we believe the intent of protecting vulnerable populations from the unpredictable and frankly potentially dangerous circumstances⁹ near a CTS makes them a population that needs special consideration. They did not know about the proposal until we told them. The executive director has been fielding calls from parents concerned about safety. This agency was the recipient of approximately \$700,000 in government capital funding to renovate their building. Their

⁷ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2021/07/09/hamilton-downtown-entertainment-district.html>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/olympic-boxer-farrell-1.5468215>

⁹ To be clear, we are not stating that CTS clients are inherently dangerous, rather that when illegal drugs are being consumed, there is the potential to attract a criminal element, as local housing developer, Indwell, discovered. See: <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2022/04/28/indwell-affordable-supportive-housing-hamilton.html>

participants are supported through the provincial *Passport* funding. **She believes there is a real possibility the centre might close if the CTS goes in here.**

The African Caribbean Association Community Centre is 30m away. They host dinners, events, concerts and other activities for people of all ages. They expressed to us their concern about young black patrons attending their location being targeted by police if a CTS goes in.

There is an elementary school and licenced day care approximately 175m away. In our low-income neighbourhood, kids actually walk to school. Barton is a main corridor to travel by foot since there are signalled intersections and crossing guards in this busy commercial district. The Catholic Board told us approximately 200 children walk past 746 Barton St daily. TAN initially denied this site was within a 200m radius of St. Ann School, and relented only after challenged with our evidence. The school did not know about the proposal until we told them.

We understand the Catholic School Board has informed you directly of their opposition.

A second elementary school is about 250m away, and a high school about 300m away.

There are churches 30m, 150m, 200m and just over 200m away. The churches also run children's programs and are attended by many who arrive on foot. Holy Spirit Church intends to open a day care service.

746 Barton is sandwiched by two residential buildings, with a block of residences in the rear.

Residents are concerned the site will impact reasonable enjoyment of their properties and are fearful of potential security or emergency situations.

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating their CTS to a location only about 1.1 km away from 746 Barton. At least some of the potential need for a CTS on Barton will be addressed at the new HUCCHC site. Placing two CTS in such close proximity will not yield the maximum benefit for the target population. It also concentrates services in an area that already has multiple methadone clinics and social agencies serving, for example, people involved with drug use, human trafficking and sex work, gangs and/or the justice system.



Figure 3 Overhead view of 746 Barton E, side and rear alleys highlighted

In terms of specific site safety, there are **multiple narrow, unlit, alleys** between buildings and the rear service alley (see figure 4). Closing off the alleys between 746 Barton and adjacent properties, which was proposed as a mitigating measure by the AIDS Network in our meeting, is prohibited by fire code

regulations. Security will be a challenge and may endanger staff and police officers who may need to respond to issues at the site, as well as pedestrians and businesses using the highly-travelled alley.

While strategies may be proposed to monitor and discourage **loitering** in front of the building, it will be nearly impossible to do so beside, behind and in the nearby neighbourhood.

Clients using the centre will be turned out onto a busy street with a narrow front sidewalk with no buffer from traffic. Clients waiting outside to enter the centre may impede regular, heavy pedestrian traffic.

*While the AIDS Network will provide general letters of support, they will not be able to provide letters of support from many (possibly any) local residents, businesses and agencies. We have confirmed from at least one supporter that they prepared their letter of support without knowing the specific location of the service.



Figure 4 St. Ann's Catholic Elementary School and St. Ann's Day Care within 200m radius of proposed CTS

This matters. Unfortunately, due to a willing lack of engagement, many locals do not even know who the project proponent is and have been directing their opposition to municipal and provincial officials. We are concerned the all feedback will not make its way to you.

The illicit drug crisis is tragic and complex. We're not disputing the service; we're saying it's in the wrong place. Locating the site in a highly pedestrianized business district, in close proximity to schools, the agency supporting young adults with special needs, churches and residences will have negative, and potentially harmful effects, on our community.

The City of Hamilton has absconded their responsibility to the community by not vetting this site prior to approval to the AIDS Network. We understand finding a location has been a long and difficult process, it seems the only thing this site has going for it is a willing landlord.

3. Community Support and Ongoing Engagement

There has been essentially no local community engagement on this initiative.

Councillor Nann, (see email, Appendix A) indicates she spoke with TAN in August and “stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents...” This never happened. We found out about the site around October 19, 2021 when it made the newspaper. We sought answers from our councillor who has confirmed in writing that the City has no responsibility for choosing the service location. We asked

TAN for a meeting to address our concerns. TAN said they'd been hearing the community was in favour of the initiative and that Zoom consultations were ongoing. **Now, going on a full year since the location was disclosed, TAN, as far as we are aware, still has not organized one community outreach session¹⁰.**

As outlined earlier, it seems that keeping the location of proposed CTS secret from the community has been a strategy at the City of Hamilton since 2019. Not divulging information to citizens is, sadly, a pattern in Hamilton.^{11 12 13} It also seems to be a pattern across the country, where injection sites are put into communities despite their opposition.

The Catholic School Board chair, Patrick Daly, didn't know about the site; PSSQL, serving young adults with intellectual disabilities didn't know; the African Caribbean Cultural Association didn't know; business on the immediate blocks of Barton Street didn't know; the churches didn't know; residents didn't know. They either found out about it by word of mouth or reading about it in the paper. The Barton BIA only heard about it when we told them about one month after the news broke in the Spectator.

We spoke with a staff at three injection sites, in Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara. One operated out of a community health centre, another from a homeless shelter, and the third was a stand-alone centre. Here are some key comments from our conversations:

- When one opened, three years ago, heroin was the drug of choice. Now fentanyl and synthetic cannabinoids dominate. This has led to more erratic and unpredictable behaviour of users.
- The composition of street drugs is often unknown. Twice a week one of the sites offers a lab service to check the chemical composition of drugs that clients bring to the site. It is a very popular service that has gone a long way to reassuring clients and staff. Clients, nervous about the safety of their supply, know what they're getting, and workers are able to stay current on trends in street drugs.
- The effects of synthetic drug consumption are often "atypical", according to the staff person. They don't know what to expect after consumption. Sometimes users pass out and naloxone

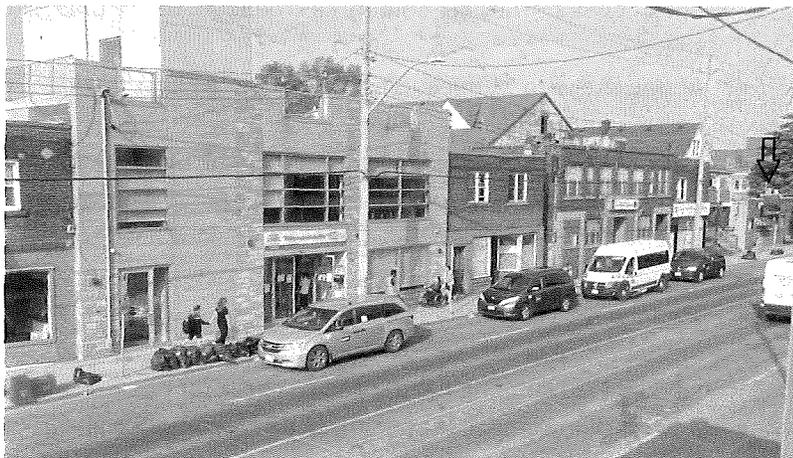


Figure 5 Morning drop off at PSSQL, on foot and by DARTS vehicles. The proposed injection clinic is ~30m away, indicated with the arrow.

¹⁰ TAN has attended two meetings (that we are aware of), both **organized by the community**.

¹¹ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/04/grey-cup-tim-hortons-field-cost.html>

¹² <https://globalnews.ca/news/4933910/hamilton-slippery-red-hill-parkway-report/>

¹³ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/21/exclusive-hamilton-city-council-staff-have-kept-a-24-billion-litre-sewage-spill-secret.html>

doesn't work. They are sometimes reluctant to call EMS. They provide supplemental oxygen on-site.

- At one site with 11 injection stations, there was an incident where four clients became unconscious at the same time.
- They all discuss the challenges posed by the unsafe supply that is available to users.
- Conflicts between clients are more common and becoming more volatile. Issues arise due to money and drugs owed between parties. Staff need to intervene in these situations and clients are sometimes asked to leave. They presumably then consume their drugs nearby.
- There was a "bad incidents" with a needle in a play area not far from the CTS. There are incidences of clients sleeping outside. The centre deploys staff every 20 minutes to clear people who may be loitering nearby and to check for discarded needles.
- It was acknowledged that operating a consumption site as a stand-alone service would be very difficult.
- They spoke of their efforts to fully and transparently engage the community, and gave credit to an extensive 8-to-9-month process with the ultimate acceptance of the service in the community.

We also spoke with Sgt Morgan, a crime manager with the Hamilton Police Service. The service is unable to provide a position statement on consumption sites, but he was able to tell us that they have generally seen an increase in crime and indecent acts around the existing site, and that that has resulted in an increased police presence.

TAN has not demonstrated the capacity to engage with this community. Their strategy of withholding details on the site and its address (even from the ward councillor) have led to suspicions in the community. Instead of engaging the community, TAN has actively sought to discredit us personally and dismiss our concerns through social and mainstream media, all the while rallying public opinion against us by implying the neighbourhood does not think their clients "deserve to live". This has poisoned their credibility in the community - we have no confidence that the AIDS Network will come up with acceptable or effective community engagement plans.

CONCLUSION

The community position continues to be that this may be the right service, but it is the wrong location. Due diligence has not been exercised. We are living and working in one of the lowest socio-economic postal codes in the province, and we have exercised far greater scrutiny over this location than our own Board of Health, local councillor or the project proponent. The deficiencies outlined herein clearly show this has the potential to be a very bad news story.

This application needs to be rejected outright.

The City of Hamilton needs to be made aware that their endorsement of a CTS application requires more rigor. Shame on them for neglecting this responsibility.

The proponent needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.

Please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval for the neighbours and businesses on and around Barton Street

[Redacted signature]

APPENDIX A – November 8, 2021 e-mail from councillor Nrinder Nann, Ward 3

Nann, Nrinder

to Office, me, [REDACTED]

1:19 PM (4 hours ago)



Hi Walter, Bob and Lena.

Public Health informed myself and Ctr Farr of TAN's desire to pursue a location in Ward 3 in August this year, during a meeting when we reviewed the information that was coming to the Board of Health related to Hamilton's Drug Strategy.

I expressed my concern at this meeting and previous ones of an overconcentration of services in Ward 3 but was informed that data triangulates to emergency calls related to toxic drug use in this neighbourhood as both a growing and ongoing concern. The need continues to be highest in Ward 2, and it is my understanding that both the interim Urban Core location will continue to serve the population in need in that area until to complete the build of their new location on Cannon St E. I also learned of the possibility of another CTS application coming forward for Ward 2 as well.

Given the data, it is essential to make evidence-based decisions to address health needs across the City. I stand by that and the need to support TAN's application to the Ministry, along with the whole of Hamilton Board of Health, based on Public Health data on the need for these services in Ward 3 growing.

Also in a meeting in the first week of August, I met with The Aids Network and they confirmed they were looking at a site on Barton Street in the Barnesdale area. I stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents. They were not able to disclose to me at that time the exact address.

The final Boh report on the Comprehensive Opioid Response was uploaded to the City's website the week before the meeting on Oct 18th. I reviewed this report the weekend prior to the Monday meeting and the location - 746 Barton St was listed in Appendix B of the report <https://pub-hamilton.escribanetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=289029>. This is when I received confirmation of the exact address.

Yours in community,

Councillor Nrinder Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

APPENDIX B – EMAIL TO ENTIRE CITY OF HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH, INCLUDING THE MAYOR AND MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH – NOT ONE REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS RECEIVED IN RETURN

Opposition to Board of Health endorsement of 746 Barton as a consumption site

Thu, Nov 4, 7:00 PM (5 days ago)

Liz Duval [REDACTED]

to elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca

Dear Dr. Elizabeth Richardson,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at **746 Barton Street East** in Hamilton.

Recently the Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application for a supervised consumption site. I reviewed the video of the meeting and did not see any information presented, or any debate, regarding the exact address of the proposed site. The AIDS Network did not disclose the location as part of their presentation. I think you'd agree, the location of this service, which will require an exemption to the Criminal Code of Canada, is pretty important.

Did you know:

- **Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living**, an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities is only 30m away at **760 Barton St E?**
- **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church** fronts onto Barton at **730 Barton St E?** In addition to religious services, they run children's programs.
- **St. Ann School is approximately 170m from the site.** Catholic School Board Chair Pat Daly was unaware of the proposed site until WE told him.
- **St. Ann Early Learning and Care Centre** is approximately **170m from the site.**
- **Norm**, our 78-year-old retired steel worker neighbour, who will not likely get market value for his house if this site goes in, **lives right next door.**
- This is a commercial district with numerous businesses.

NO ONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS CONSULTED ABOUT THIS, though we understand the proponent has been in talks with the landlord of the building since August. We read about it in the Spec AFTER BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL. Our Ward 3 councillor says she is too busy to meet with us. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

This is not the right location for this site and we are certain that the Board of Health would never have provided its endorsement if more details were known. The executive director of PSSQL is very concerned that families will pull their participants out of programs due to safety concerns. There is a deficit of services for adults with intellectual disabilities - it would be tragic if the introduction of a service (the consumption site) resulted in the closure of an agency that serves an even more vulnerable segment of the population. Surely this cannot be the intent here.

Sorry for all the bold and caps, but we're feeling so frustrated and unheard in this community. We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street, at 765 Barton E, and live upstairs. We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that virtually no consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We can't count on our Ward 3 councillor and are hoping you will care enough to re-open this discussion.

We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,
Liz Duval

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX C – TAN NOVEMBER 21, 2021 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

 **TAN CTS**
13h

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged.
Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca

 **The Hamilton Spectator**
Yesterday at 7:00 AM

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, @TeviahMoro reports #HamOnt



THE SPEC.COM
Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

♥ The AIDS Network liked

 **TAN CTS** @CTSAtTAN · 15h

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt
@TheSpec @TeviahMoro

 **Hamilton Spectator** @TheSpec · Nov 21

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, @TeviahMoro reports #HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG50GSAF8

i Email from Michelle Baird to Walter Furlan, December 2, 2021



Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Thu, Dec 2, 2021, 12:32 PM

to me

Good afternoon,

Attached is some data we can discuss when we meet.

We were made aware of the potential site at Barton in August through a meeting with TAN.

...

Michelle

ii Quote from Tim McClemont, Executive Director, the AIDS Network in the Hamilton Spectator, November 20, 2021 (page A3)

iii Councillor Nann email, June 2022

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Ninder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>

Date: Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 4:40 PM

Subject: RE: Notes from Tuesday's meeting

To: Tanya B <jacviviviv@gmail.com>, Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Ninder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>, Nann, Ninder <Ninder.Nann@hamilton.ca>

Cc: furlanconservation@gmail.com <furlanconservation@gmail.com>, n_turco@hotmail.com <n_turco@hotmail.com>, bob.e.sutton1@gmail.com <bob.e.sutton1@gmail.com>, lene.sutton@bell.net <lene.sutton@bell.net>, karlbastiv@gmail.com <karlbastiv@gmail.com>, narm21@aol.com <narm21@aol.com>, brenda.duke@hotmail.com <brenda.duke@hotmail.com>, daivq@hwodsb.ca <daivq@hwodsb.ca>, jacinta.echo@lusocos.ctg <jacinta.echo@lusocos.ctg>, izduva2000@gmail.com <izduva2000@gmail.com>, michael@kcepc.com <michael@kcepc.com>

Hi Tanya,

Thank you for your email. It was a pleasure to meet with all of you in person.

Please find the answers to your questions below in red:

Yours in Community,

Dear Councillor Nann,

Thank you for meeting with our group yesterday to hear our concerns about the proposed injection clinic location. You heard from concerned citizens, business owners, parents, retirees, an agency serving young adults with disabilities and the Hamilton Catholic District School Board. All spoke against the location that's been proposed for the clinic. To emphasize yet again, we are not against the service, but we do not support the location that is being proposed.

We heard:

- You acknowledged that we had concerns about a school, a daycare and vulnerable populations near the injection clinic, but you would not recognize there are any potential problems with this service in proximity to those groups.

As I said at the meeting, there are legitimate concerns about community effects in this (or any) location. I am awaiting TAN's mitigation plan to be able to assess if those plans sufficiently address these concerns.

- You confirmed that the City has NO role or influence over the selection of a location for the injection clinic - when an application comes forward to the Board of Health, the municipality has no mandate to ask any questions. You said you'd been surprised to find that the municipality does not have a say on location and stated that "the location was a concern for me too".

The City does not vet locations of CTS services that are not being operated by the City of Hamilton, and that was new information when I learned it. Each applicant is responsible for finding the location. If a CTS were considered for a City building, the City would be able to ask questions as a landlord. In this case, the kinds of questions the City can ask are limited to zoning and other items regulated by bylaw. Ultimately, it is up to the provincial and federal governments to approve the location.

In terms of concerns about this location, I would want to hear about mitigation plans for community concerns for any location, not just this one.

- You confirmed there was no vetting by the City, nor was there any community consultation prior to the Board of Health's unanimous approval. You stated that as a member of the Board of Health you only learned of the specific address a few days prior to the meeting at which TAN's application was endorsed. Neither you, nor your colleagues, asked any questions about the specific location because scrutiny on the location falls into the Provincial jurisdiction. You said you were currently powerless to stop the application from proceeding because the Board of Health had endorsed TAN to pursue a CTS in Ward 3 (though the resolution does not specifically identify 746 Barton).

What I said was, the province has the jurisdiction of approving this application, not the Board of Health. I don't have the authority to stop the application. My role as Councillor is to encourage robust community consultation throughout the process and the Board of Health/Council provide general support for the opening of a CTS site to help address our opioid drug crisis. Boards of Health also must demonstrate to the Province that we are responding to this real health crises in our community.

The City is not obligated to vet the location or complete an independent community consultation; that is the responsibility of the applicant. As part of the application process for a CTS, the applicant needs to demonstrate that they have provided community consultation. There is more information on the application and requirements that you can find here: [Consumption and Treatment Services: Application Guide \(gov.on.ca\)](#). Ultimately, it is up to TAN to fulfill the requirements of the application and the Province/Federal Government will make the decision on the application and the location.

- You failed to refute your support for the specific injection clinic location at 746 Barton, despite requests for clarification.

I repeatedly stated that I am in support of CTS services in general and that my decision on whether this location and the organizations applying to open it are to continue receiving support hinges on their ability to address concerns raised by the local community through a mitigation plan.

- You also stated that there are other injection locations under consideration in the city, specifically in Ward 2 downtown, and that those locations are also being kept secret from the community.

There are other locations under consideration for a CTS at various stages in the process. Locations are not shared with Councillors or the public at this point in the process. Any possible CTS locations will follow the process outlined at the link I shared above.

- Given that it's been about 7 months since Board of Health endorsement of the location and that TAN has yet to complete their application to the Federal and Provincial governments, you indicated you would give TAN a deadline to complete their application. You said you'd let us know TAN's deadline date, and that you'd follow-up with us once you'd reviewed their plan, but the consequences of an incomplete or inadequate plan were not clear.

I said I would give TAN a deadline to provide their mitigation plan for community concerns. I have no deadline for their application. I have requested a meeting with them to discuss this and will share with you the deadline to see that plan once they have informed me about their ability to deliver. Whether or not their mitigation plan is robust and addresses the concerns will determine whether or not I can support their operation of this site. However, as mentioned above, my support or lack thereof will not determine whether or not the CTS is opened. This is decided by the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada.

When it was pointed out that St. Ann Catholic School is less than 200m from the proposed location, you agreed that the Ministry of Health "will not waive the school issue" and would be unlikely to fund this proposal, as a school at this proximity is contrary to their funding program guidelines. You repeated that the municipality has no say on location selection.

I do not know how the ministry determines measurement in a case like this (door to door, edge of building to another, direct line, or route of travel etc) so I cannot comment on whether this location meets the 200m minimum length. That would be a question for the ministry or MPP. My understanding of the regulation is that 200m is the minimum length, but I do not know if an exception can be made or not. Again, that would be a question for the ministry or MPP. These are not decisions that are made by the municipality.

Councillor Nrinder Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Phone: (905) 546-4550

Email: Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca

Website: nrinder.ca

City Hall is located on the ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe and many other Indigenous peoples. It is also covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement, which asks that all sharing this territory do so respectfully and sustainably in community.

The Ward 3 Office sends bi-weekly electronic newsletters. Please advise us if you wish to unsubscribe.

iv Councillor Nann's office email of March 22, 2022

Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann

Tue, Mar 22, 12:11 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to me, Office *

Hi Walter,

Thank you for contacting the Ward 3 office

The timeline of community consultation that TAN has undergone can be found here: <https://windsnetwork.ca/cts/>

In terms of the location, though it is true there is urgency in responding to the need that the drug epidemic in our city requires, there is no quick fix. In fact, Public Health tried and failed to secure a location for years for a City-led CTS. No private land owner was willing to sign a lease for this. The location associated with TAN's application, at 746 Barton Street E is **because the land owner is a willing partner**. That is key in their ability to pursue the application. Additionally, a storefront with ample room inside to be repurposed for multiple services, is necessary for a CTS site and the location does have the correct specifications for the delivery of these essential services.

TAN will be connecting directly with both school boards and St. Ann's Elementary School

Warmly,

Alex

Alexandra Weinberger, she/her

Resident Liaison and Administrative Assistant

Councillor Nrinder Nann, Ward 3

City Hall - 71 Main St W, Second Floor, Hamilton ON, L8P 4Y5

Phone: 905-546-2107

Email: alexandra.weinberger@hamilton.ca

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Background on LUSO, 760 Barton St E

Luso Support Services serves young people with special needs.

More than 50 participants attend each day. Their clients have intellectual disabilities. Many have multiple, complex disabilities. Many require assistive devices and require comprehensive, one-on-one assistance.

Most arrive in DARTS vehicles, which are often line up for drop off to the front door of 746 Barton.

They have made a multi-million dollar investment in their facility and Barton St.

They have concerns for participant safety. Their mandate includes integrating the participants into the community – they come to my workshop every week to do some woodworking.

They invited TAN to a community meeting 2021. The parents of her clients expressed grave concerns – some were in tears. She has not received further contact from TAN since that time.

“It has to go somewhere; Aren’t you just being NIMBY”

- This isn’t about NIMBY, it’s about protecting vulnerable people. No one else is looking out for them; not the proponent, not the city.
- You literally probably could not have chosen a worse location. It only consideration was a willing landlord.
- Saying it has to go somewhere doesn’t mean it should just go anywhere.
- Within 50m
 - o Luso Support Centre of Hamilton, a day program for young adults with intellectual disabilities
 - o African Canadian Caribbean Association, a cultural and event space
 - o King of Kings Boxing Gym, for inner city kids
 - o Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church, religious services and cultural
 - o Barvinok School of Ukrainian Dance, an internationally renown youth dance troupe
 - o 14 residential buildings, home to families with children, people disabilities and seniors
- Within 100m
 - o Holy Spirit Catholic Church
 - o St. Stanislaw Church and licenced daycare
 - o Barton Arts Music school
- Within 200m
 - o St. Ann Catholic Elementary School and St Ann Early Years Centre
 - o St. Ann Catholic Church

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315
- Immigrant Culture and Art Association
- Dozens of residences and businesses

I would challenge you to find a location in Hamilton that has so many community assets.

This isn't just about me; 1,200 people signed a petition. 20+ have written letters. **IMPORTANTLY:** Our community has never had a chance to make its wishes known. This file was dormant for 16 months. **This is intentional exclusion by design.**

The Service has to be where the clients are; on a bus route....

- Public Health's own data do not show extraordinary need on Barton St.
- December 2, 2021, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shared a report. **The city's own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage,** confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- The most recent data show high areas of need in Stoney Creek and Dundas.
- There's already going to be an injection clinic 1.1 km (10 minute walk) from 746 Barton.
- Mount Hope example – bus route

Why aren't you communicating through TAN?

- TAN has treated the community very poorly.
- They posted our photo on social media and called us liars.
- They've called us "uneducated".
- They have not shown themselves to be acting in good faith or with transparency. For example, they made no effort to inform the community of this meeting. We could find no mention of this meeting on their website.
- They have yet to initiate any community outreach. Any meetings that have taken place have been initiated by the community. An online survey does not constitute community consultation.
- We have been in direct contact with the provincial and federal departments, who have agreed to receive our information directly.



Walter Furlan <walterforward3@gmail.com>

Sneaking this through

Peter Dyakowski
To: Walter Furlan

Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 7:56 AM

Not a bother at all! Thanks for leading on this!

Dear Board of Health,

I am writing to you today as a parent of two children at St. Ann's School at Barton and Sherman. Our family loves that school, both the education it delivers and the community it provides. Our daughters love going there. It is part of our lives. Whenever the weather is anywhere close to decent, we walk to school.

I am extremely concerned by the proposal to put an injection clinic in close proximity to our elementary school. It is indisputable that this facility will attract crime. It will also force upon the young, innocent children at St. Ann's school the daily spectacle of grown adults high, coming down, and in states of distress as they feel in need of their next hit. They will see the very worst things that people do to each other on display right in front of their school. There will be violence, sex acts, and public defecation. I manage downtown properties and have since 2008. I KNOW what I am talking about.

Addiction is a dehumanizing monster. That our society has accepted this affliction as a given is a horrible indictment upon us all. Forcing it upon 6-year-olds, making small children confront this reality daily, is criminal. Everyone involved in making this decision needs to pause and look deeply within themselves. If you, in your personal capacity, allow this, you will be responsible for what is inflicted upon these children. You will bear responsibility for the childhoods you end and the lives you break. Some of these kids will never be the same after seeing the things you will show them. You, personally, are making this decision, for or against.

This is not an appropriate place for a facility like this. This is exactly where you should not place something like this. You have a responsibility to find an alternative location with fewer negative impacts.

In 2006 Hamilton chose me, and since then I have chosen to make Hamilton my home. This is my community, I want to be able to raise my children here and not worry about scarring them. I want to be able to walk them to school.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Peter Dyakowski



[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



image.png
2K



image.png
11K

**COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CONSUMPTION SITE
AT 746 BARTON STREET EAST, HAMILTON
June 15, 2022**

To:

Hon. Filomena Tassi, MP
Lisa Hepfner, MP

Enclosures:

- Executive Summary
- Community amenities in close proximity to proposed location at 746 Barton Street
- Briefing package, summarizing community opposition in specific context of the Provincial Ministry of Health Consumption Treatment Site (CTS) funding program.

Submitted by:

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval, for the neighbours and business on Barton

Dear Ms. Tassi and Ms. Hepfner,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2021, The AIDS Network (TAN) was endorsed by Hamilton's Board of Health (BoH) to pursue an injection site in Ward 3, Hamilton. At the time of the endorsement, the BoH was aware of the site's address at 746 Barton St. East, yet no questions were asked about the appropriateness of the location, whether community consultation had taken place, or its proximity to vulnerable populations.

In fact, the address was **purposefully kept secret** from the community until it was approved by the City, **no community consultation was undertaken** and it is **in very close proximity to multiple vulnerable populations**, including school and pre-school aged children (schools and day-cares), people with a disability and seniors.

The City of Hamilton failed in its responsibility to vet the site prior to approval of the location, in contrast to communities such as Cambridge and Barrie who have undergone extensive reviews of potential injection sites that has included robust community consultation. Ward 3 councillor Nann stated to us that the City has **no influence** over the location TAN is pursuing for the CTS.

Step 2 in the 3-step¹ CTS approval process is a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This is the reason for our appeal to you.

From: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/supervised-consumption-sites/apply.html> (emphasis added)

In Canada, possession of controlled substances is prohibited under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. To operate a supervised consumption site (SCS) for medical purposes in Canada, an exemption under section 56.1 of the Act is necessary.

Health Canada may grant exemptions for SCS after satisfactory completion of an application. An application includes **consultation with a broad range of people in the community**.

Each site is considered on a case-by-case basis, on its own merits. We take the information in the application and **public and health safety objectives into account**.

Exemptions for SCS are generally granted for a year. However, length of time can vary based on the completeness of the application and compliance history.

Other federal considerations include:

- Number of drug-related overdoses and deaths in local area
- Intended health and safety impact of site on target population, general public and local area

¹ Step 3 is funding approval under the provincial Consumption Treatment Site funding program of the Ministry of Health. Of note, an injection clinic may operate if they secure federal approval but fail to get provincial funding.

- Community Consultation report - This information is gathered to understand the efforts that have been made to engage with the community to inform them of the proposal and ensure that the voices of community members have been heard.

We are not against supports for people with addictions, including, where appropriate, injection sites. The current illicit drug crisis is complex and tragic. You will see, however from the material provided herein, that the proposed CTS location at 746 Barton Street East is deficient in many of the federal and provincial criteria.

We hope that we can count on your support to oppose the proposed CTS location² at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. We would be very pleased to discuss this with you further at your convenience.

² According to Blaine Bouchard, Manager, Ministry of Health, TAN has submitted a partial application to the CTS funding program.

Community Snapshot



X – 746 Barton Street East, location of proposed CTS. Currently occupied by a restaurant with a lease to May 2023.

1 and 2 - 740 and 748 Barton, occupied residential buildings immediately adjacent to the site, one owned by the residents, the other a rental.

3 - 747 Barton, Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings, boxing and other programming for inner city children, run by a former Olympian.

4 – 752 Barton, African Caribbean Cultural Association – A charity to “facilitate and foster community engagement and empowerment for all members of our community including youth.”

5 – 760 Barton, Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living, a charity providing “a safe, supportive and caring environment for individuals & families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities.”

6 – 15 St Olga (fronts at 730 Barton), Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church, the Ukrainian Day School (daycare pending), and the reknown Barvinok Ukrainian School of Dance, in addition to other community groups/events.

7 – 8 St. Ann St (fronts at ~720 Barton), St. Stanislaus Polish Church, hosts various community groups/events.

8 – 15 St. Ann St., St. Ann Catholic Elementary School; St Ann Early Years Centre

9 – 120 Sherman Av N (fronts at ~686 Barton St.), St. Ann Catholic Church, hosts various community groups/events.

10 – 4 Solidarnosc Place, Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315

There are also innumerable small, family run businesses and residences in the immediate area.

Also of note, there are:

METHADONE CLINICS at:

- . Vista Addiction Treatment Clinic, **847 Barton St E**
- . The Stipley Clinic, **707 Barton St E**
- . ACT Methadone Clinic, **664 Barton St E**

MARIJUANA RETAILERS at:

- . Matrix Cannabis Company, **774 Barton St E**
- . Cannabis House Co, **800 Barton St E**
- . And one coming soon to **859 Barton St E**

- Sex Workers Action Program, 771 Barton St. E

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information regarding local conditions, proximity and community opposition with respect to The AIDS Network's (TAN) proposal to operate a CTS at 746 Barton St. E. in Hamilton. This document is the culmination of literally hundreds of hours of research by volunteer resident and business owners who care about our community. A pen-to-paper petition of opposition currently has more than 1,100 signatures. In summary:

- **This application needs to be rejected outright. A CTS at this location is in direct proximity to vulnerable populations, specifically young adults with special needs, school aged and pre-school aged children, and seniors.**
- **The location is not evidence-based, according to Hamilton Public Health's own data, and does not represent prudent stewardship of public funds.**
- **The City of Hamilton does not feel they have a role in vetting the location of this service. They have neglected this responsibility to the applicant, to the community, to the Federal and Provincial government decision makers, and importantly to the clients of the service. Finding a willing landlord to house the service seems to have been the only criteria for choosing this location.**
- **TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.**

You will see significant flaws in process have preceded the submission of this, as far as we know, partial application. The local community has not been appropriately consulted. The Board of Health (BoH) approval process failed to meet reasonable due diligence standards. The exact location of the site was withheld until after local approval – there was no opportunity for community consultation or input. The City's own data does not support the need for this service at this location. It will result in an overconcentration of drug and justice system-related services in our immediate community.

Our intention is not to disparage The AIDS Network, and we acknowledge that the illicit drug crisis is a very complex and tragic issue. **We are not disputing the need for a service**, but have serious concerns about the specific location being proposed and the process, or lack of, that has gotten us here.

Brief Timeline:

- **December 2019**, from CBC Hamilton, the City of Hamilton announces it has chosen the site for a second injection site, but the site location "will be made public when the city submits an application to the province's health ministry."³
- **March 2020**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "The city has looked at 29 locations... But in some instances, the locales haven't been large enough or were too close to facilities like schools, which the province deems sensitive."⁴
- Nothing apparently came of the 2019-20 efforts... very little or no news reports appear until about 1.5 years later...
- **On or around October 12**, date Ward 3 councillor Nrinder Nann says she first becomes aware of the address of the proposed site (see councillor Nann's email, Appendix A of this document)

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/second-safe-injection-location-1.5387376>

⁴ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/19/city-has-looked-at-29-sites-for-supervised-injection-site-in-hamilton.html>

- **October 19, 2021**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "Hamilton's board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid... (by) the AIDS Network... for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E..."⁵
- **October 20, 2021**, we (stakeholders on the block of 746 Barton) hear about this initiative in the media. We immediately request a meeting with our councillor and with TAN. Our councillor gives us a meeting date of November 16.
- **October 29, 2021**, TAN attends an in-person meeting at 765 Barton with a few community members. Of note, they specifically state that the data has identified the Barton-Lottridge intersection as a hot-spot for drug overdoses. This is false. No such data exists. They specifically state that they were under no obligation to consult with St. Ann's School or St. Ann's Day Care, since they were beyond the 200m radial guideline. When confronted with a map, they acknowledged the school and daycare to be 170m from the proposed location.
- **November 16, 2021**, Councillor Nann, TAN and other supporters attend a community meeting organized by Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living at their office. This agency serves young adults with special needs. Approximately 25 people are in attendance, including families of the participants, staff and community members. Many parents speak of the difficulty in finding quality programming for their children, and praising the work of PSSQL. They explain how their children can become very frightened by loud noises, sirens and people behaving erratically. Councillor Nann is presented with a petition of approximately 600 signatures (the number collected at that time). One member of the TAN delegation minimizes community concerns as "NIMBY-ism".
- **November 20, 2021**, an article appears in the Hamilton Spectator <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/20/aids-network-supervised-drug-consumption-site-barton-street-east.html>
- **November 21, 2021**, TAN re-posts the article and accompanying photo on social media (see Appendix C). They claim they have reached out to the people mentioned in the article "without response or engagement". This is patently untrue and is meant to discredit our group. We have initiated contact and have emailed TAN several times with questions (and they have replied – so they can't say they haven't been acknowledged). Other stakeholders, such as the African Caribbean Association (quoted), Karlik Pastry (in photo), and neighbours (also in the photo) had not been consulted at all by TAN.
- Furthermore, TAN state in the post that they've been trying to engage for "months", however this site has only been made public since October 19. They admit in the Spectator article they purposefully withheld the location of the site to prevent "conflict and controversy". Regrettably this has been the very result their approach has achieved.
- **November 30, 2021**, Community petition against the location of the proposed CTS reaches 750+ with more coming in every day.
- **December 2, 2021**, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shares a report. The city's own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage, confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- **December 3, 2021**, TAN places an opinion piece in the Hamilton Spectator, failing to acknowledge or address community concerns by saying we are among "those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business, or organization."
<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/12/03/new-consumption-and-treatment-site-in-hamilton-will-help-save-lives.html> . Unfortunately, opinion pieces in opposition (we know of at least three, including our own submissions) are not being published by the Spec.
- **December 6, 2021**, Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton, attends a meeting at our invitation. She indicates the city was aware of the location of the site in mid-August, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/19/safe-consumption-site.html>

- **May 17, 2022**, after months of requests, Councillor Nann meets with our group for the first time. She provides her understanding of the CTS approval process and confirms the City of Hamilton has no say in influencing or directing the location of an injection clinic.

Reasons for opposition

1. Local Conditions:

The AIDS Network spokesperson told us at the meeting of October 29, 2021, that, unequivocally, the 746 Barton site selection was strictly "**evidence based**" (their words), driven by City of Hamilton EMS data. Furthermore, they described an *unusually specific* concentration of problems in the exact vicinity of Barton and Barnesdale, where they want the site to go.

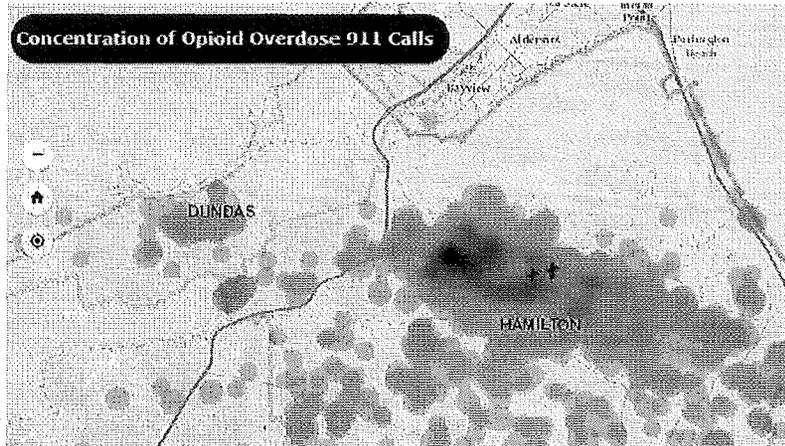


Figure 1 Paramedic incidents in Hamilton related to opioid overdose, 2017-2021
Of note, the data in Figure 1 are for the period of 2017-2021. When one filters the data for 2020-2021, the contrast is even more stark.

This is not what the data show⁶ (see Figure 1). The vicinity of 746 Barton is not a hot-spot. When pressed, TAN provided us further data which included ward-wide statistics, but nothing specific to our neighbourhood.

The black X in Figure 1 is the approximate location of 746 Barton St E at longitude 79.83, latitude 43.255. Note that the neighbourhood around 746 is actually on par with most of the rest of the lower city in terms of calls.

The blue X is the location of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's current CTS, longitude 79.867, latitude 43.258. Note the concentration of EMS calls in the immediate vicinity of the that site.

The red X is the new location of the HUCCHC's consumption site on Cannon Street. It is obvious that this area of the city is not the greatest area of need, yet it will be home to two CTS' in very close proximity.

With the closure of HUCCHC's Rebecca St location downtown (the blue X), there will be a significant gap in services in that part of the city. An evidence-based approach would see a new CTS open to serve that need. The Barton – Cannon area will be overserved with CTS. It stands to reason that

⁶ <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/hamilton-opioid-information-system-opioid-overdoses>

clients losing the service downtown will migrate into our neighbourhood. It is felt that this is part of a larger strategy to respond to the gentrification pressures downtown⁷.

We requested, and were granted a meeting with Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton. We reviewed the data with her, and it confirmed our understanding that the need is greatest in Ward 2 and there is no particular “hot spot” in our neighbourhood.

Ours is a neighbourhood with challenges, but the City of Hamilton’s own data does not corroborate the concentration of, or the need for, a consumption site (and especially a second CTS) in our neighbourhood.

2. Proximity to vulnerable populations

The Provincial CTS program guidelines state: *CTS will not be concentrated in one area or neighbourhood, and proximity to child care centres, parks and/or schools (including postsecondary institutions) will be considered.*

Right across the street at 747 Barton is **Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings**, where former Olympic boxer Nick Farrell runs boxing and other programming for inner city boys and girls.⁸

There is a Ukrainian School approximately 30m away.

There is a day program for young adults with special needs only 30m from the site, and 4 doors down, at 760 Barton St E, called Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living (PSSQL). Their participants walk (or use a wheelchair) and take the bus to community volunteering opportunities. The proposed CTS is located between them and the nearby park – participants and workers will need to pass right by this site when coming and going from their centre.

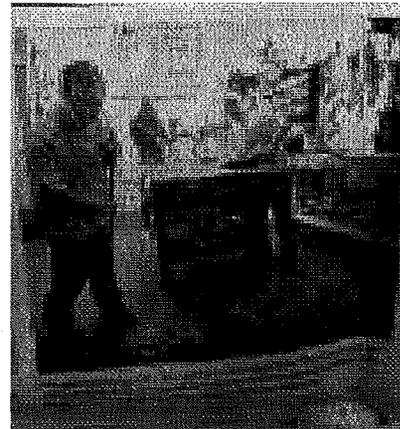


Figure 2 PSSQL participants working / volunteering at Furlan Conservation, Barton Street, (Hamilton Spectator, Feb 2015)

While this is not a “licenced day care”, we believe the intent of protecting vulnerable populations from the unpredictable and frankly potentially dangerous circumstances⁹ near a CTS makes them a population that needs special consideration. They did not know about the proposal until we told them. The executive director has been fielding calls from parents concerned about safety. This agency was the recipient of approximately \$700,000 in government capital funding to renovate their building. Their

⁷ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2021/07/09/hamilton-downtown-entertainment-district.html>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/olympic-boxer-farrell-1.5468215>

⁹ To be clear, we are not stating that CTS clients are inherently dangerous, rather that when illegal drugs are being consumed, there is the potential to attract a criminal element, as local housing developer, Indwell, discovered. See: <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2022/04/28/indwell-affordable-supportive-housing-hamilton.html>

participants are supported through the provincial Passport funding. **She believes there is a real possibility the centre might close if the CTS goes in here.**

The African Caribbean Association Community Centre is 30m away. They host dinners, events, concerts and other activities for people of all ages. They expressed to us their concern about young black patrons attending their location being targeted by police.

There is an elementary school and licenced day care approximately 175m away. In our low-income neighbourhood, kids actually walk to school. Barton is a main corridor to travel by foot since there are signalled intersections and crossing guards in this busy commercial district. TAN initially denied this site was within a 200m radius of St. Ann School, and relented only after challenged with our data. The school did not know about the proposal until we told them.

We understand the Catholic School Board has informed you directly of their opposition.

A second elementary school is about 250m away, and a high school about 300m away.

There are churches 30m, 150m, 200m and just over 200m away. The churches also run children's programs and are attended by many who arrive on foot. Holy Spirit Church intends to open a day care service.

746 Barton is sandwiched by two residential buildings, with a block of residences in the rear. Residents are concerned the site will impact reasonable enjoyment of their properties and are fearful of potential security or emergency situations.

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating their CTS to a location only about 1.1 km away from 746 Barton. At least some of the potential need for a CTS on Barton will be addressed at the new HUCCHC site. Placing two CTS in such close proximity will not yield the maximum benefit for the target population. It also concentrates services in an area that already has multiple methadone clinics and social agencies serving, for example, people involved with drug use, human trafficking and sex work, gangs and/or the justice system.

In terms of specific site safety, there are **multiple narrow, unlit, alleys** between buildings and the rear service alley (see figure 4). Closing off the alleys between 746 Barton and adjacent properties, which was proposed as a mitigating measure by the AIDS Network in our meeting, is prohibited by fire code regulations. Security will be a challenge and may endanger staff and police officers who may need to respond to issues at the site,



Figure 3 Overhead view of 746 Barton E, side and rear alleys highlighted

as well as pedestrians and businesses using the highly-travelled alley.

While strategies may be proposed to monitor and discourage loitering in front of the building, it will be nearly impossible to do so beside, behind and in the nearby neighbourhood.

Clients using the centre will be turned out onto a busy street with a narrow front sidewalk with no buffer from traffic. Clients waiting outside to enter the centre may impede regular, heavy pedestrian traffic.

*While the AIDS Network will provide general letters of support, they will not be able to provide letters of support from many (possibly any) local residents, businesses and agencies. We have confirmed from at least one supporter that they prepared their letter of support without knowing the specific location of the service.

This matters. Unfortunately, due to a willing lack of engagement, many locals do not even know who the project proponent is and have been directing their opposition to municipal and provincial officials. We are concerned the all feedback will not make its way to you.

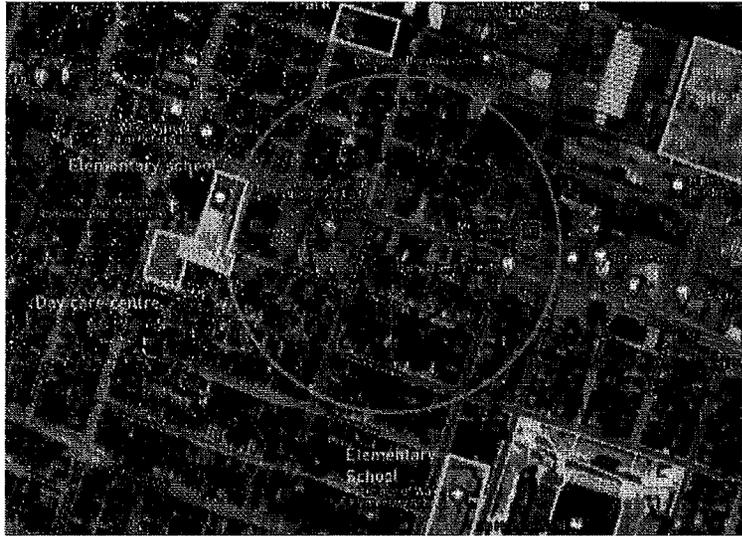


Figure 4 St. Ann's Catholic Elementary School and St. Ann's Day Care within 200m radius of proposed CTS

The illicit drug crisis is tragic and complex. We're not disputing the service; we're saying it's in the wrong place. Locating the site in a highly pedestrianized business district, in close proximity to schools, the agency supporting young adults with special needs, churches and residences will have negative, and potentially harmful effects, on our community.

The City of Hamilton has absconded their responsibility to the community by not vetting this site prior to approval to the AIDS Network. We understand finding a location has been a long and difficult process, it seems the only thing this site has going for it is a willing landlord.

3. Community Support and Ongoing Engagement

There has been essentially no local community engagement on this initiative.

Councillor Nann, (see email, Appendix A) indicates she spoke with TAN in August and "stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents..." This never happened. We found out about the site around October 19 when it made the newspaper. We sought answers from our councillor who has

confirmed in writing that the City has no responsibility for choosing the service location. We asked TAN for a meeting to address our concerns. TAN said they'd been hearing the community was in favour of the initiative and that Zoom consultations were ongoing. **Now, going on seven months since the location was disclosed, TAN, as far as we are aware, still has not organized one community outreach session¹⁰.**

As outlined earlier, it seems that keeping the location of proposed CTS secret from the community has been a strategy at the City of Hamilton since 2019. Not

divulging information to citizens is, sadly, a pattern in Hamilton.^{11 12 13} It also seems to be a pattern across the country, where injection sites are put into communities despite their opposition.

The Catholic School Board chair, Patrick Daly, didn't know about the site; PSSQL, serving young adults with intellectual disabilities didn't know; the African Caribbean Cultural Association didn't know; business on the immediate blocks of Barton Street didn't know; the churches didn't know; residents didn't know. They either found out about it by word of mouth or reading about it in the paper. The Barton BIA only heard about it when we told them about one month after the news broke in the Spectator.

We spoke with a staff at three injection sites, in Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara. One operated out of a community health centre, another from a homeless shelter, and the third was a stand-alone centre. Here are some key comments from our conversations:

- When one opened, three years ago, heroin was the drug of choice. Now fentanyl and synthetic cannabinoids dominate. This has led to more erratic and unpredictable behaviour of users.
- The composition of street drugs is often unknown. Twice a week one of the sites offers a lab service to check the chemical composition of drugs that clients bring to the site. It is a very popular service that has gone a long way to reassuring clients and staff. Clients, nervous about the safety of their supply, know what they're getting, and workers are able to stay current on trends in street drugs.
- The effects of synthetic drug consumption are often "atypical", according to the staff person. They don't know what to expect after consumption. Sometimes users pass out and naloxone

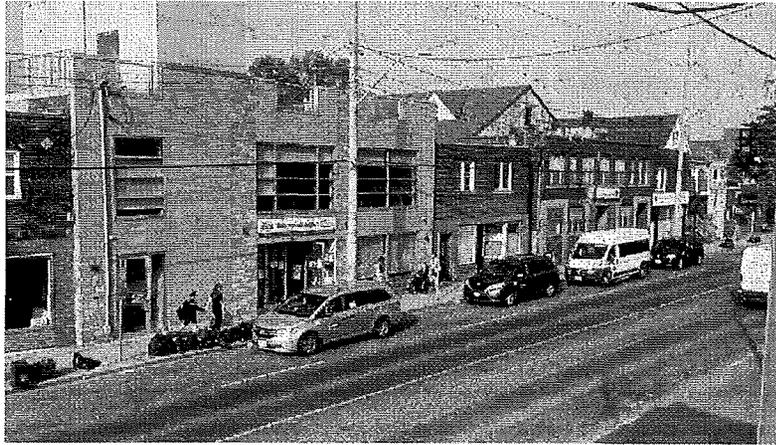


Figure 5 Morning drop off at PSSQL, on foot and by DARTS vehicles. The proposed injection clinic is ~30m away, indicated with the arrow.

¹⁰ TAN has attended two meetings (that we are aware of), both **organized by the community**.

¹¹ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/04/grey-cup-tim-hortons-field-cost.html>

¹² <https://globalnews.ca/news/4933910/hamilton-slippery-red-hill-parkway-report/>

¹³ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/21/exclusive-hamilton-city-council-staff-have-kept-a-24-billion-litre-sewage-spill-secret.html>

doesn't work. They are sometimes reluctant to call EMS. They provide supplemental oxygen on-site.

- At one site with 11 injection stations, there was an incident where four clients became unconscious at the same time.
- They all discuss the challenges posed by the unsafe supply that is available to users.
- Conflicts between clients are more common and becoming more volatile. Issues arise due to money and drugs owed between parties. Staff need to intervene in these situations and clients are sometimes asked to leave. They presumably then consume their drugs nearby.
- There was a "bad incidents" with a needle in a play area not far from the CTS. There are incidences of clients sleeping outside. The centre deploys staff every 20 minutes to clear people who may be loitering nearby and to check for discarded needles.
- It was acknowledged that operating a consumption site as a stand-alone service would be very difficult.
- They spoke of their efforts to fully and transparently engage the community, and gave credit to an extensive 8-to-9-month process with the ultimate acceptance of the service in the community.

We also spoke with Sgt Morgan, a crime manager with the Hamilton Police Service. The service is unable to provide a position statement on consumption sites, but he was able to tell us that they have generally seen an increase in crime and indecent acts around the existing site, and that that has resulted in an increased police presence.

TAN has not demonstrated the capacity to engage with this community. Their strategy of withholding details on the site and its address (even from the ward councillor) have led to suspicions in the community. Instead of engaging the community, TAN has actively sought to discredit us personally and dismiss our concerns through social and mainstream media, all the while rallying public opinion against us by implying the neighbourhood does not think their clients "deserve to live". This has poisoned their credibility in the community - we have no confidence that the AIDS Network will come up with acceptable or effective community engagement plans. We believe TAN may use our efforts against us, and try to claim the meetings and correspondence initiated by the community as evidence of their own outreach.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate your consideration.

IN SUMMARY, our position is that this may be the right service, but it is the wrong location. Due diligence has not been exercised. We are living and working in one of the lowest socio-economic postal codes in the province, and we have exercised far greater scrutiny over this location than our own Board of Health, local councillor or the project proponent. The deficiencies outlined herein clearly show this has the potential to be a very bad news story.

This application needs to be rejected outright.

The City of Hamilton needs to be made aware that their endorsement of a CTS application requires more rigor. Shame on them for neglecting this responsibility.

TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for their service.

Please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval for the neighbours and businesses on and around Barton Street
765-769 Barton St E, Hamilton
(905) 383-3704

APPENDIX A – November 8, 2021 e-mail from councillor Ninder Nann, Ward 3

Nann, Ninder

1:19 PM (4 hours ago)



Hi Walter, Bob and Lena,

Public Health informed myself and Ctr Farr of TAN's desire to pursue a location in Ward 3 in August this year, during a meeting when we reviewed the information that was coming to the Board of Health related to Hamilton's Drug Strategy.

I expressed my concern at this meeting and previous ones of an overconcentration of services in Ward 3 but was informed that data triangulates to emergency calls related to toxic drug use in this neighbourhood as both a growing and ongoing concern. The need continues to be highest in Ward 2, and it is my understanding that both the Interim Urban Core location will continue to serve the population in need in that area until to complete the build of their new location on Cannon St E. I also learned of the possibility of another CTS application coming forward for Ward 2 as well.

Given the data, it is essential to make evidence-based decisions to address health needs across the City. I stand by that and the need to support TAN's application to the Ministry, along with the whole of Hamilton Board of Health, based on Public Health data on the need for these services in Ward 3 growing.

Also in a meeting in the first week of August, I met with The Aids Network and they confirmed they were looking at a site on Barton Street in the Barnesdale area. I stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents. They were not able to disclose to me at that time the exact address.

The final BoH report on the Comprehensive Opioid Response was uploaded to the City's website the week before the meeting on Oct 18th. I reviewed this report the weekend prior to the Monday meeting and the location - 746 Barton St was listed in Appendix B of the report. <https://pub.hamilton.ca/cibemastline.com/ilestream.php?DocumentId=289029> This is when I received confirmation of the exact address.

Yours in community,

Councillor Ninder Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y6

APPENDIX B – EMAIL TO ENTIRE CITY OF HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH, INCLUDING THE MAYOR AND MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH – NOT ONE REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS RECEIVED IN RETURN

Opposition to Board of Health endorsement of 746 Barton as a consumption site



Liz Duval

to elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca

Thu, Nov 4, 7:00
PM (5 days ago)

Dear Dr. Elizabeth Richardson,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at **746 Barton Street East** in Hamilton.

Recently the Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application for a supervised consumption site. I reviewed the video of the meeting and did not see any information presented, or any debate, regarding the exact address of the proposed site. The AIDS Network did not disclose the location as part of their presentation. I think you'd agree, the location of this service, which will require an exemption to the Criminal Code of Canada, is pretty important.

Did you know:

- **Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living**, an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities is only 30m away at **760 Barton St E?**
- **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church** fronts onto Barton at **730 Barton St E?** In addition to religious services, they run children's programs.
- **St. Ann School is approximately 170m from the site.** Catholic School Board Chair Pat Daly was unaware of the proposed site until WE told him.
- **St. Ann Early Learning and Care Centre** is approximately **170m from the site.**
- **Norm**, our 78-year-old retired steel worker neighbour, who will not likely get market value for his house if this site goes in, **lives right next door.**
- This is a commercial district with numerous businesses.

NO ONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS CONSULTED ABOUT THIS, though we understand the proponent has been in talks with the landlord of the building since August. We read about it in the Spec AFTER BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL. Our Ward 3 councillor says she is too busy to meet with us. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

This is not the right location for this site and we are certain that the Board of Health would never have provided its endorsement if more details were known. The executive director of PSSQL is very concerned that families will pull their participants out of programs due to safety concerns. There is a deficit of services for adults with intellectual disabilities - it would be tragic if the introduction of a service (the consumption site) resulted in the closure of an agency that serves an even more vulnerable segment of the population. Surely this cannot be the intent here.

Sorry for all the bold and caps, but we're feeling so frustrated and unheard in this community. We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street, at 765 Barton E, and live upstairs. We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that virtually no consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We can't count on our Ward 3 councillor and are hoping you will care enough to re-open this discussion.

We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,
Liz Duval



APPENDIX C – TAN NOVEMBER 21, 2021 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

TAN CTS
15h · 🌐

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged.
Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca

The Hamilton Spectator · 🌐
Yesterday at 7:50 AM · 🌐

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid... See more



thespec.com
Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

♥ The AIDS Network liked

TAN CTS @CTSatTAN · 15h · 🌐

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt
@TheSpec @TeviahMoro

Hamilton Spectator @TheSpec · Nov 21

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, @TeviahMoro reports #HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG50GSAF8

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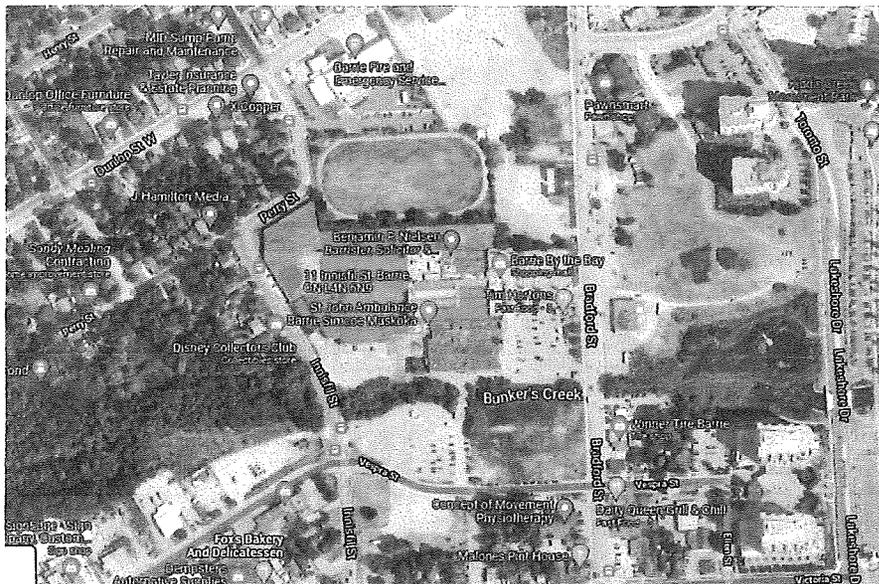
THE SPEC.COM
Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

 The AIDS Network liked
 TAN CTS @CTSAtTAN · 15h
Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt
[@TheSpec](#) [@TeviahMoro](#)

 Hamilton Spectator @TheSpec · Nov 21
Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, [@TeviahMoro](#) reports
#HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG5OGSAF8



For contrast on site location. Proposed site in Sudbury for CTS under review by Exemptions Canada.
 Note location is industrial with no schools nearby.



Proposed CTS in Barrie under review by Exemptions Canada. No schools nearby and in and industrial area.



100 King Street West, 14th Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 1A2
www.hamilton.ca

Hamilton

Public Works Department
Environmental Services Division
Landscape Architectural Services
905-546-2424 ext 2292 (Telephone)
Victoria.Cox@hamilton.ca

PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY!

Woodlands Park Spray Pad - 1st Public Information Centre

Dear Residents:

The City of Hamilton's Landscape Architectural Services Section invites you to the first Public Information Centre 'PIC' to review feedback from the survey that closed on November 9th 2021 and to review preliminary design options for the Woodlands Park spray pad project. Woodlands Park is an existing 2.13 hectare Neighbourhood Park located at 501 Barton Street East within Ward 3 in the City of Hamilton. It is one of the City's oldest parks and currently contains several amenities including a playground, outdoor fitness equipment, a soccer field, multi-use court, a field house building and parking lot.

PIC Details

Date: Tuesday, December 7th 2021

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

This event will be co-hosted with the Ward 3 office virtually through Webex. You can join us via a landline, cell phone or computer and no special software or camera is needed.

Please visit the following link to register for the PIC and learn more about the project:

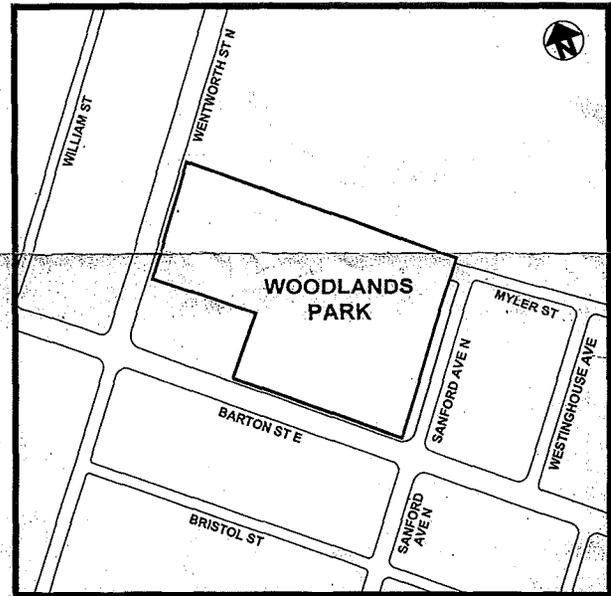
engage.hamilton.ca/woodlandspark

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first on-line survey, we received a lot of valuable feedback! We look forward to your participation in the PIC meeting.

If you have any questions or wish to reach out directly, please contact Victoria Cox, Project Manager, using the information provided in the signature below.

Respectfully,

Victoria Cox
Landscape Architectural Services, Public Works.
Tel: (905) 546-2424 x 2292
Victoria.Cox@hamilton.ca



Supervised drug consumption sites save lives

October 20, 2021 | Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada)

Page: A12 | Section: Editorial

593 Words

Let's start with this: Supervised injection and consumption sites, where users of intravenous and other hard drugs can consume their own supply in a safer and supervised environment, save lives, connect people to social services and serve as gateways to addiction treatment.

That is not speculation. A mountain of evidence, from Canada and around the world, supports the above statement as fact. In short, such facilities provide a clean and safe place for people to consume their own drugs while being monitored by trained staff. Those experts help prevent accidental overdoses, as well as stop the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV. Supervised consumption sites also provide access to health and social services, including substance abuse treatment, and they offer other services such as checking drug supplies for safety.

For some of us, including those who have limited or no experience with addictions and in particular with hard drug use, this may seem like a paradox in a way. Why would we support and fund a facility that makes it easier for people to take part in behaviour we know is self-destructive?

The answer can be found in harm reduction principles and practice. These are a set of practical ideas and strategies that recognize the value of reducing negative consequences of drug use: The value to users, the health system, the community overall.

This is not about endorsing opioids and other drugs. It is about recognizing that past policies of zero tolerance and "Just say no ..." have failed to eliminate the problem. Now we have a crisis with opioid consumption and overdoses. This is about recognizing we cannot stop that, but we can reduce the negative outcomes.

Sadly, Hamilton provides a perfect example. Our city had Ontario's fifth highest opioid-related death rate in 2020 - 29 per cent higher than the provincial rate. Opioid-related emergency department visits last year were 38 per cent higher than the provincial rate. Overdose calls to Hamilton Paramedic Services have been steadily increasing - there were 594 in the first eight months of this year, compared to 565 for all of 2020. Between January 2020 and March, 2021, 96 per cent of opioid-related deaths were found to be accidental, according to data from the Office of the Chief Coroner. Some of those deaths, beyond any question, could have been prevented by a supervised consumption site facility.

So it is little wonder that Hamilton's board of health is fully behind a bid for a second supervised consumption site to help meet the demand now falling entirely on the site operated by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. City health officials have been pursuing a location for the second site for two-and-a-half years, with no

Bid for second safe consumption site gets wide support

October 19, 2021 | Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada)

Author/Byline: Joanna Frketich The Hamilton Spectator Joanna Frketich is a Hamilton-based reporter covering health for The Spectator. Reach her via email: jfrketich@thespec.com | Page: A1,A5 | Section: Local / News
706 Words

Hamilton's board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid for a second safe consumption site as opioid overdoses and deaths continue to increase at what one councillor called an "alarming and unacceptable rate."

The AIDS Network is in the process of applying to the Ministry of Health for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E.

"There is an urgent need," executive director Tim McClellmont told the board Monday.

Hamilton's first site at 71 Rebecca St. was approved in March 2019 and is run by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. It's expected to temporarily move in December to 70 James St. S before relocating permanently to 430 Cannon St. E. in September 2023.

The city has pursued a second site for more than two and a half years, but public health couldn't find a location, leaving it to the AIDS Network to finally fill the gap.

"It was totally disheartening and totally unacceptable that none of our private partners for space were willing to come forward," said Coun. Nrinder Nann. "If it was up to me we would have them integrated into all the pharmacies and remove the stigma."

Nann described the number of deaths in Hamilton from opioids as "staggering."

"Unsafe supply is leading to death at a total alarming and unacceptable rate in our community," she said.

Grim statistics were provided to the board Monday by public health on the sharp rise in drug related emergency department visits, hospital admissions, overdoses, and deaths in the past five years with the trend mostly attributed to opioid related poisoning and fentanyl:

Monthly overdose calls to Hamilton Paramedic Services has steadily increased to 594 in the first eight months of 2021 compared to 565 for all of 2020.

Hamilton's rate of opioid-related emergency department visits was 38 per cent higher than the province in 2020. In the first three months of 2021 alone, there were 228 opioid-related emergency department visits.

Of confirmed opioid-related deaths in Hamilton from January 2020 to March 2021, 96 per cent were accidental, found preliminary data from the Office of the Chief Coroner. Deaths were primarily among those age 25 to 44 years, followed by those age 45 to 64. Fentanyl was the most common type of opioid contributing to accidental overdose deaths while 79 per cent overall were street drugs.

Hamilton had Ontario's fifth highest opioid-related death rate in 2020 at 29 per cent above the provincial rate.

Opioid overdoses are concentrated in the lower central areas in wards 2 and 3, which account for more than two-thirds of paramedic calls.

Despite the opioid crisis, the budget for the Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services and Community Mental Health Promotion Program isn't increasing.

"It's not unique to this year that this particular program area with these funding sources don't necessarily see increases," said Michelle Baird, director of the epidemiology, wellness and communicable disease control division at public health. "We are continuing to try to maintain the services we have with the budget that doesn't

NO, the location is wrong for a CTS site

The process has lacked transparency and community consultation

LIZ DUVAL AND WALTER FURLAN

No one is saying people do not deserve to live. Rhetorical questions about being on the right side of history serve to distract from the issue at hand.

We do not disagree consumption sites can be part of a harm reduction approach. They are not, however, without significant challenges. They require an exemption to federal law, since clients bring their own, illegally acquired, drugs to the site. The province recognizes schools and daycare centres as special stakeholders due to inherent risks. Saying "There are those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business or organization," is an oversimplification. It is reasonable for a community to be concerned and have questions.

In March 2020, the City of Hamilton rejected 29 potential consumption sites. The locations under consideration were never made public, nor were the evaluation criteria. In October 2021, the city unanimously approved a proposal by the AIDS Network (TAN), to set up a site at 746 Barton St. E. They asked not one question about the location, its possible impact on the community or any neighbourhood concerns.

Had they asked, they would have discovered that 746 Barton is sandwiched between two residential properties. It's right across the street from a small gym where a former Olympian runs recreation programs for kids. It's less than 40 metres from an agency that provides a day program for young people with developmental disabilities, a cultural community centre, a church, their cultural school and a school of dance. It's about 175 metres from a Catholic elementary school and daycare centre, two more churches and a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. It's just over 200 metres from two other public board schools. It is in a business district, and backs onto a residential neighbourhood. People here walk to shops, amenities and schools.

TAN says it applied to open the site "this summer," yet it admits it didn't disclose the location until after board of health approval at the end of Octo-

ber to avoid "a lot of controversy or conflict." What it accomplished is the opposite. We found out about the initiative in The Spectator — this is not how you do community engagement.

TAN still hasn't organized a meeting for the community, preferring online sessions and surveys, but it has attended a few meetings organized and hosted by the neighbourhood. At one meeting concerns were dismissed as "NIMBY"-ism. TAN has also actively sought to discredit our concerns in social media. We get multiple mail-outs from the city about a splash pad going in one kilometre away, yet no one at the city will answer our calls or emails on a consumption site.

We understand it is difficult to find an appropriate location for this type of service. Councillor Nrinder Nann has voiced her disappointment that none of the initiative's private partners for space were willing to come forward.

Where was Hamilton Health Sciences, a robust publicly funded institution with the infrastructure and professionals to handle these complex cases when the consumption site was being planned? By the way, the Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating its current consumption site to a location about 15 km away from the location on Barton. Why, when public health's own data clearly shows opioid-related EMS calls are highest in Ward 2, will Ward 3 end up with two permanent consumption sites and Ward 2 none? This is not an evidence-based approach and poor stewardship of taxpayer dollars. It seems the only location criteria today is a willing landlord.

It's minimizing to disparage our neighbourhood's understanding of this issue by saying we're simply against the service. We are not. We live with these issues every day. This process has lacked transparency and good-faith consultation with the community. We are saying it's the wrong location.

LIZ DUVAL AND WALTER FURLAN LIVE AND HAVE OPERATED THEIR BUSINESS FOR 10 YEARS ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED SITE ON BARTON STREET. THEY CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY.

To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Attached is some data we can discuss when we meet.

We were made aware of the potential site at Barton in August through a meeting with TAN.

[Quoted text hidden]

 **OpioidResponse_NeighbourhoodInfo.pdf**
949K

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
To: Michael Mecca [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 12:45 PM

I just received this. The data seems to support our case. What do you think?

[Quoted text hidden]

 **OpioidResponse_NeighbourhoodInfo.pdf**
949K

Castro-Garcia, Carolina [REDACTED]
To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]

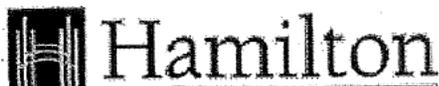
Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 1:05 PM

Hi Walter,

I regret to inform you that Michelle is not feeling well and will have to reschedule this meeting. She will however emailing you the data and can discuss when she's there.

Does Monday work for you at 3:45pm or Friday Morning next week.

Thanks,



Carolina Castro-Garcia

905-546-2424 ext. 4886

The City of Hamilton encourages physical distancing and increased handwashing. Learn more about the City's response to COVID-19 www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus

[Quoted text hidden]

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
To: "Baird, Michelle" <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>
Cc: "Castro-Garcia, Carolina" <Carolina.Castro-Garcia@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 2:47 PM

Hello Michelle

Could you also provide any information in relation to the rejected sites over the past 2 1/2 years. I believe there were something like 25 sites that were considered and all were rejected.

Thank you
Walter

[Quoted text hidden]

Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>
To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
Cc: "Castro-Garcia, Carolina" <Carolina.Castro-Garcia@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 4:39 PM

Hi Walter,

Yes, there were a number of sites explored. I don't have exact numbers but it's in that range. As you know much of the work was done exploring sites located within ward 2 and unfortunately for various reasons none were successful. Some were just not able to accommodate the programming needed from a size perspective, some properties had landlords without willingness to proceed and others were too close in proximity to settings such as schools. It was welcome news that TAN had secured a location that met the program needs and had a willing landlord supporting the site. There were many reasons they weren't successful. We can discuss further when we meet.

[Quoted text hidden]

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
To: "Baird, Michelle" <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 7:14 PM

Hi Michelle

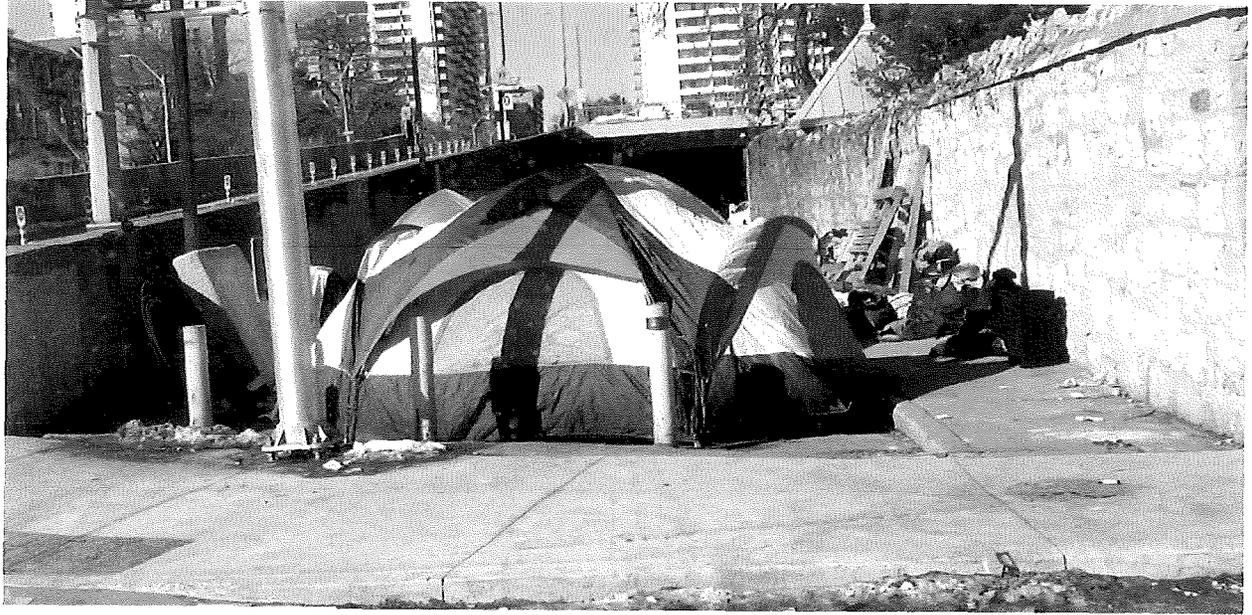
Are you able to let me know when you were made aware of 746 as a potential location?
I also hope you can expand on the unsuccessful sites in relation to proximity to settings such as schools.

Thank you and I'm looking forward to meeting with you tomorrow.
Walter

[Quoted text hidden]

Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 12:32 PM



YWCA CTS FEB 23

*Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church
15 St. Olga Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 6R3
(905) 545-2914 e-mail: ira.protsiv@hsucc.ca*

16 November 2021

Dear City Counsel and to whom it may concern,

On behalf of Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church, its members and committee, we would like to express our deep concerns regarding the City of Hamilton endorsement of a supervised consumption site at 746 Barton Street East.

The proposed location is less than 80 meters from the parish which is why this has been the main concern of our church and its members since the announcement was released. We are of the opinion that the City did not consult with the community before approving this location and failed to assess the inevitable risks associated with such a site.

The parish is located on the front steps of Barton Street East, a community that has been dealing with crime, drugs, human trafficking and poverty for years. We acknowledge that as a society, we need to help those who need us most, but having these kinds of services, although much needed, so close to schools, businesses that have been struggling for some time now is irresponsible. The presence of Police in the area is noticed daily especially in the alleyways and many hidden passages around Barton Street of this proposed site. These hidden spots have always been primary grounds for drug use and various paraphernalia can be located on any given day.

On the evening of November 11th, 2021, minutes before our monthly committee meeting took place to discuss this topic, we discovered an attempted entry into our lower banquet hall. A closer look at video surveillance revealed two suspects damaging the glass door. This is a pattern that the parish has been dealing with on a regular basis and we are concerned that the situation will become worse. History has shown that after the establishment of such injection site, the crime in the area increases dramatically. Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair quoted "I don't know of any place in the city where a safe injection site couldn't have a significant negative impact on the community".

We are very worried that this will affect the attendance of our parishioners as well as children's programs. We have the dance group Barvinok take practice regularly, and other children programs. There is great concern about children's safety once the injection site opens.

The burden of opioid misuse, addiction and overdose in Hamilton is an urgent problem and we fully support helping our most vulnerable population. It is of strong opinion that the location of such safe injection site was chosen carelessly and without the collaboration of the community; we are asking to consider a different location for this purpose. Our parish has been struggling to keep its doors open for some time as attendance decreases from year to year, the close proximity of this chosen location inevitably risks our livelihood.

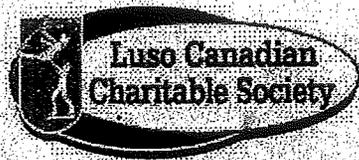
Thank you and God Bless.

Father Roman Trynoga

Holy Spirit Church Council

Iryna Protsiv

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iryna Protsiv', written over a horizontal line.



Luso Support Centre of Hamilton

(Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living)

760 Barton Street East Hamilton, ON L8L 3B1 – www.lusoccs.org

Phone: 905-522-4612 Email: info.echo@lusoccs.org



Thank You to our Ambassadors and Distinctive Contributors

Ambassadors

A.C.E. Local 1030

Alcino Antunes

Bastos Manuel & Maria

Botelho Emily

Deso Construction Limited

Hamilton Paving Inc.

LIUNA Local 506

Mancinelli Joseph & Enza

Ribeiro Jacinta

Exceptional Contributors

Government of Azores

IUPAT District Council 46

LIUNA Local 183

LIUNA Local 837

Roysun Contracting Inc.

Target Drywall & Acoustics

Exceptional Fundraising Initiatives

Amigas das Malassadas

November 11, 2021

To whom it may concern:

A project for an Opioid Safe Site is planned for 746 Barton St. East. While we agree that the community needs this type of support, there must be consideration given to area community members and/or other services existent in the area.

Portuguese Support Services (soon to be Luso Support Centre) offers a large day program for adults with developmental disabilities located at 760 Barton Street East. Our Centre is located 38m from the proposed site (746 Barton St. East).

This community supports the integration of our participants and grows with their contribution. Some volunteer at several businesses, others do shopping and eat at the restaurants including (O Leao, now open at the location in question). They also participate in community clean up and festivals; attend Tiger-Cats practices; are regular users of the parks nearby, among other things. The program is based at the Centre, but dependent of the surrounding community for activity diversity and personal growth/integration. Staff and participants of the program can be seen regularly walking on the area streets.

Learning from reports from other cities, Opioid Safe Sites can bring scenarios to the area that are both unsafe and scary for the participants of our program. We are already faced with heavy police presence in the area which frightens them and restricts our ability to go out.

Given the fact that the population we serve is vulnerable and having already faced a lockdown due to crime on the street, we believe bringing an Opioid Safe Site that close to our Centre threatens the safety and wellbeing of our population.

By sharing the concerns of the families we serve, we hope that the proposed project finds a better location to serve the community.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jacinta.echo@lusoccs.org or 905 522 4612.

Sincerely,

Jacinta Ribeiro,
Executive Director
Luso Support Centre of Hamilton

Holy Spirit Ukrainian
Saturday School
15 Saint Olga St
Hamilton, ON L8L 6R3

Ward 3 Councillor

November 16, 2021

Trinder Nann

Hamilton Centre MPP

Andrea Horvath

Dear Political Representatives,

RE: Proposed Injection Site at 746 Bart St E in Hamilton ON

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Saturday School is a member of the International Languages Programme through the Hamilton Separate School system. For the past ten years we have run our language school from our site at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church every Saturday from September to the end of May. Our children come from across all sections of Hamilton, Stoney Creek as well as Burlington and Brantford. We are currently in lockdown because of Covid-19.

It has taken us a number of years to gather our pupils and to encourage our parents to send them to us for additional school time on Saturdays as it is a commitment for both parents and children. Our programme was thriving prior to the Covid shut down.

Just recently we have been advised through a number of different business as well as private neighbourhood conversations that the City of Hamilton is planning to open a Safe Injection Site within meters of our school. We are extremely concerned about this decision as it may negatively impact our ability to reconvene our school and to convince our parents that their children will be safe in our care.

The area of Barton Street near the proposed site has long been a depressed and struggling business section. In recent years we have watched as new stores have begun to open up between Sherman and Lottridge Streets and it would be a great disappointment to see this new revitalization initiative stymied because of this proposed decision.

Please consider all points of view as you go forward with this proposal.

Yours truly


Irena Wojtow-Dmyterko

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Saturday School Director



St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish

Parafia Św. Stanisława Kostki

W służbie Bogu i Polonii od 1912 roku

November 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Proposed CTS Site for Hamilton's Ward 3

With this letter I would like to voice my concern over a proposed CTS site at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. The proposed location is situated merely 170 m from our Church and Parish Hall, which are the heart of Hamilton's Polish community, its religious and cultural centre. Nearly 10 000 people (3,200 families) are registered in our Church and use its programs and venues regularly. We hold 13 regularly scheduled religious services each week, not counting additional services like funerals, baptisms and weddings - slightly over a hundred of these performed each year. Our Parish also runs various youth and senior groups, organizes cultural and social events, and is a home for other numerous outreach and community-oriented groups and initiatives, such as AA, CWL, KofC, Street Ministry Outreach for the Poor and Homeless, etc. In the near future we are planning to open a licensed daycare centre which will be run by the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King who are ministering in our community. On a weekly basis, on average, our church is visited by approximately 2000 people who come from near and far to benefit from what our parish and the neighbouring Polish businesses have to offer related to their faith and culture.

Having said this, many of these regularly attending people have expressed to me (by email, in person, and through numerous signed petitions) their deep concerns regarding the vicinity of the proposed CTS site. They fear for their own wellbeing and safety, that of their elderly parents/grandparents, their children, as well as the physical/material wellbeing of our church and neighbourhood. They have put countless volunteer hours and financial means into making our Church and Hall safe and accessible to all, hoping their care and effort will add to the ongoing revitalization of our struggling neighbourhood. These people, mostly immigrants themselves, are questioning not only the location of this Safe Injection Site, but also the sincerity of its supporters, as there was absolutely no consultation, honest discussion or straightforward information shared with the local residents, businesses, schools and churches by the applicants.

I value and share the opinion of my parishioners both in the matter of the location of the proposed CTS, which I, too, deem wrong, and regarding the lack of transparency in the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Father Michał Kruszewski, C.R.,
Pastor

8 Saint Ann Street
Hamilton, ON L8L 6P8

Tel: (905) 544 0726

Fax: (905) 544 8783

E-mail: stankostka@cogeco.ca

www.stankostka.ca



689 Barton St.E. Hamilton, ON L8L 3A5
<http://www.immigrantart.org>
Email: icaa@immigrantart.com

15 November, 2021

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Canada Revenue Charities Branch Manager:

It has been brought to our attention that the government has decided to establish a safe injection site near our office and gallery at Barton St. E. in Hamilton.

The Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA) are a divers art and culture organization and educational facility that helps immigrant youth to access arte education in our gallery space.

Our office and galley space is a place for newly arrived immigrant families, their children and elders to attend exhibition openings and art classes. We believe that the introduction of an injection site near schools, art centres and community centres is not a sustainable and safe decision.

Since we were not consulted on the process we therefore declare our opposition to this initiative. We are hoping that the government will assign a safe and supervised location for the injection.

Best wishes,

Marufa Shinwari
Ph.D.C. MAA, BLL
ICAA - Past Executive Director

2021



757-769 Barton Street East
Hamilton L8L 3A9
905-383-3704

waterconservation@gmail.com
furlanconservation.wordpress.com

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau

CONSERVATION

RE: Federal Exemption for Proposed CTS 746 Barton Street East Hamilton, Ontario

I am writing to you today as a business owner, resident, lifelong Hamiltonian and Canadian.

My wife and I own and operate a heritage conservation business out of 3 storefronts on Barton St in Hamilton. I reside with my wife above our shop in which we have invested heavily to restore.

WE DO NOT OPPOSE THE CTS SERVICE. We express opposition to the location of the site. It is inappropriate.

We choose to live here because of the diversity of the community. Indigenous, people of colour, and all sort of socio-economic persons reside here and contribute to this country.

I currently have 2 children serving in the RCAF. One a Captain he is charge of Griffon helicopter repairs, the ones currently being deployed in B.C. Another son a firefighter in Greenwood.

I am one of the few of Italian heritage that have settled here on Barton that did not listen to their parents' advice and leave to a more affluent area. I believe and care about this street and community.

I mention this because we are a family of service to this community and country.

Most people looking from the outside looking in think this community is poor, stupid and on drugs.

People that believe this sadly include our local politicians, medical and others that have predisposed that we would happily accept an injection site in this neighbourhood. They have no or little understanding of this community and they have seriously underestimated the people in this community.

In this area thriving churches, schools, daycares, seniors, services for young adults with intellectual challenges. A former Canadian Olympic boxer running a school for inner city kids, an African Caribbean club, thriving businesses and more.

This proposed CTS site is within 200 meters of all the above. Some are even closer.

There is more, the city and the proponents of the CTS, the Aids Network have not outreached at all to anyone in this community. Further they have attacked us viciously on social media saying that we were contacted but have not responded.

This is a deep disrespect of this community Mr. Prime Minister. Please have your people investigate this.

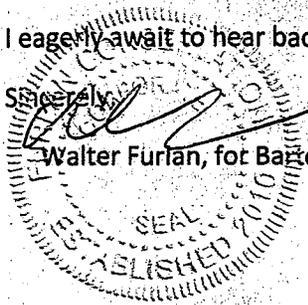
We are asking you to intervene directly in this matter. We ask that the federal approval to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act 56.1 application for CTS at 746 Barton Street Hamilton not be approved. We have over 1000 pen to paper signatures in opposition to the proposed location.

We are prepared to leverage the awakening of this community to it fullest. Please keep in mind that this is where industrial unionism was born in this country, a short way down the street from here. We are a resilient and self-reliant people.

I eagerly await to hear back from you Mr. Prime Minister as time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan, for Barton Street and Country.



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

December 6th 2021

RE: 746 BARTON CTS LOCATION INAPPRORiate

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the Aids Network at 746 Barton Street East in Hamilton. I am not against an injection site but I do not think this is the right area.

My biggest concern is that there are schools, churches, daycare, children walking past the site to go to school, and an agency that provides a day program to young adults with development and intellectual disables just approximately 40 meters from the proposed site.

According to the media in other cities in Canada there has been an increase in crime, overdoses, also the presence of drug dealers.

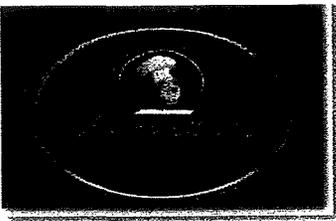
I am a 78-year-old senior who will be living right next door to this site and there is another residence with 3 tenants on the other side. How are we supposed to protect our families? Are we supposed to board up our windows? lock our doors and never go outside to enjoy the comforts of our outdoor space?

Leaders have forgotten who worked hard to build this city live in this community and have retired here. How much more can this community take we have 3 cannabis stores, and 3 methadone labs in this area already.

I am disappointed in City Council and the Board of Health for not having any concern for the safety of their citizens.

Norman Robinson





762 Barton Street East Hamilton L8L 3B1

Tel: (905) 544-2730

Fax: (905) 544-4043

karlikpastry@gmail.com

04.11.2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This concern letter is my screaming voice addressed to the organizations and individual people who make this unbelievably terrible decision to open Injection site on our Barton corridor, 746 Barton Str East with out of clear picture how that facility will effect our enough struggle community.

My husband and I owned bakery for last seven years and we become part neighbor watch community and know that the future and safety for our children and elders become firs.

Around our bakery we have 5 plus schools, 6 churches and many front store businesses that due the pandemic facing challenges with flow.

If you like to have clear pictured how this site affects us, please go by walking to Rebecca and John Street in Hamilton where is the similar Injection site. It's very dangerous to the people that not effected by drugs.

In the back we have ally that has been use for parking and has been lock by all neighbors.

For all this years we build the trust with our costumers and you wont to destroyed it.

WE ALL CARE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If in this moment you are have need to open Injection site as medical help to the people, then look for the location that are closer to the hospital and has no schools and churches around.

Regards,
Luba Mudrak

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 1/2 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



M

MANDI LOWTHIAN SMITH

6:49 PM (3 hours ago)

to mayor@hamilton.ca, Ward3@hamilton.ca, me, Brenda

TAN Presentation 9:30 am Monday Feb. 13/23

I discovered on Sunday Feb. 13 at 18:00 that this group was presenting on a matter directly relevant to my fellow constituents with virtually no notice.

I submit that you all have short memories.

This writer, along with fellow constituents, made a clear point about being given very short notice on directly relevant matters such as the Tiny Huts proposal less than 60 days ago. All of you with exception of the Mayor were present and presumably in concordance.

This writer is presently 300 km away hosting a Superbowl party.

The proposal being discussed, if it comes to pass, places a Safe Injection Site within 200 m of a disabled Senior, families, and the inevitable small army of little kids.

This writer therefore submits that she is forced to conclude that Councillor Nann erred in not engaging us.

Again.

We have been entirely reasonable during both the HATS initiative and now this. This writer has had a first degree relative who was an IV drug user, and knew people with AIDS. Like you, we are trying to do the right thing for all concerned.

Because of the emergency nature of this email, I would encourage fellow constituents to submit their opinions posthaste.

Thank you
Merci.
Migwech

----- Original message -----

From: ebishop [REDACTED]

Date: 2023-02-12 5:39 p.m. (GMT-05:00)

To: mayor@hamilton.ca

Subject: Clean injection site ward 3

I Ernest Bishop of 36 Rosemont ave. I'm also a constitute of ward 3 for 50 year. I have seen many changes in those years . I'm writing you to adamantly oppose the proposed new clean injection site. This site is being dumped in ward 3 just like the halfway houses a number of years ago. There are also 2 grade schools very close to this location. I feel we have enough problems in this ward without importing new one . I work for Teamsters local 879 , believe in social programs but not in this location. Regards Ernie.

Statement on CTS facility on Barton Street Ward 3

Feb. 13, 2023

Chair and Members of the Board of Health,

I have been asked to offer some thoughts on the site application before the Board regarding the CTS facility on Barton St.

I must say that I do not live in Ward 3 currently. But I know it well. I grew up in the Ward at 562 Cannon St. East. I attended St. Ann's Elementary School, Central HS which was on Sanford and Wentworth Streets, was married at St. Anthony's Church (which I still support), learned how to skate at Woodland's Park, banked and shopped on Barton Street. And frequent some of the businesses there still.

My heart aches when I see the degradation of some neighbourhoods and cheer at the positive changes that I see and have been made over the last number of years.

I also believe in harm reduction and safe spaces for our most vulnerable people such as the clients who will use this facility.

I am asking you, as a Board to consider the over-saturation of these facilities of sometimes (sadly) last resort in the neighbourhood. I have spoken with and have listened to those who have real fear of this over-saturation. My heart goes out to them. These folks are filled with hope for a better neighbourhood and are trying to make it happen. I try to allay their concerns but cannot argue with their analysis of over-saturation especially along Barton Street.

Surely in our city our size another alternative can be found.

285 words

I

I ask you to listen to the citizens who live in the Ward and see if you can find a compromise.

Respectfully

Larry Di Ianni



Liz Duval <lizduval2000@gmail.com>

Opposition to Supervised Consumption Site - Hamilton

1 message

Liz Duval

Sat, Oct 30, 2021 at 3:22 PM

To: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org, ward3@hamilton.ca, ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca, elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca, daly@hwdsb.ca, horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca, ed@aidsnetwork.ca

Dear Minister Elliott,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at 746 Barton Street East in Hamilton.

We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street and live upstairs. The proposed site is also located only **three doors down** from an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental disabilities. **It is less than 200m from a school.** It is adjacent to residential buildings and located in a commercial district. This is not the right location for this site.

Last week, Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application. At the meeting, the exact address of the site was not identified and the AIDS Network did not disclose it as part of their presentation. We are certain that if the site had received proper scrutiny, it never would have received council endorsement.

We, as a community have not been adequately consulted. None of the businesses or residents we have spoken to on our block were aware of this initiative prior to seeing it in the media last week. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that very little consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,

Liz Duval

