

To the Chair and Members of Emergency & Community Services Committee
Carmen Orlandis, Ward 3 Stinson Elder.

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To the Emergency & Community Services Committee: Greetings!

Regarding Housing Services D. recommendation to continue to operate a temporary shelter from 46 West Ave S. as it appears in the "Arkledun Delay Mitigation and Interim Plan for Homelessness System Service Levels for Single Women (HSC23019) (City Wide) and the community meeting at Memorial centre.

This document was first made public yesterday and tonight a community meeting took place at Memorial.

Gratitude to the hosting panel. It felt a little more transparent and respectful than in the past. I felt that my community experience-based input was somehow heard and it was acknowledged as real instead of dismissed and ignored. I request that HSD and Ward 3 Office report the minutes of this meeting to ECS Thursday March 23.

I will write about Old Cathedral another day. Today, I am pressed to write about the staff recommended temporary shelter for 20 women at 46 West Ave . We were told that there is not another location in Hamilton for this emergency shelter and they had not foreseen it... and they had not intended for this to happen but it has and the panel apologized to the community. Also, Good Shepherd had a lease for the building which facilitated everything.

12 community members spoke and expressed their experience- based concerns with respect and compassion for the well-being of all.

I live 1/2 block from 46 West Ave. S and 2 blocks from the soon to open Mission Services low barrier shelter for 108 men and 2 blocks from Old Cathedral. I asked the panel, if it would be possible, to mitigate the conditions, to operate the location as low-impact shelter for 20 women and non-binary individuals, instead of operating a high-impact low barrier shelter for "very high acuity persons." [the new term used by HSD.] After all, non high acuity women also need shelter.

We were told that "there would be a mixture of acuities".

My husband asked:

1. Is it April 31, 2024 the very final date to decommission the location?

The panel said YES.

2. Will be security be provided outside the location to reduce the impact?

The panel said YES. And also car patrols, they are costly but very effective.

I request Council to guarantee that Housing Services Division and Good Shepherd will stand up to these promise 1 and 2 before it signs HSD Staff recommendation.