

From: Kevin Brazil

Sent: August 11, 2023 9:54 AM

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Subject: tiny town - proposed Strachan location

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I want to register my opposition to the proposed site on Strachan street east for the Tiny Home village. On reviewing the preferred selection posted by Hamiltontinysshelters.ca this Proposal fails on several criteria:

1. Be outside the City core

The proposed Strachan site is located in the City core. The 'North end' is presently undergoing a renewal with the development of the harbour front, go station, influx of development and new families. The Tiny Town location on Strachan East will develop a city sanctioned "ghetto". It is highly likely that the site will trigger further tent encampments adjacent to the site as the surrounding green belt is conducive to such an occurrence. Such an outcome will send mixed messages to both North End developers and residents on the future vision of the area.

2. Minimal Impact to residential neighbourhood

As a home owner directly across from the proposed site, I have serious concerns on the impact of the property value of my home. Has an environmental impact assessment included this consideration? Will the City offer a 'Fair market value' compensation scheme to offset decline in property values for affected homeowners.

On this note, there are also real public safety concerns. This is noted by the requirement for fencing and enhanced policing. On reading reports on the Tiny Town shelters initiative in the Kitchener-Waterloo region there has been a reported increase in petty crime (theft, vandalism) and drug paraphernalia litter, a significant issue for local families and young children.

3. Access to hydro services.

The location has no established infrastructure to support this Proposal which needs to be compliant with municipal and provincial regulation for habitation including heat, water, electricity, sanitation and garbage and snow removal. Meeting these conditions implies the establishment of a permanent community as opposed to running a 2 year demonstration project.

4. No major environmental issues.

There would be a concern of maintaining ongoing sanitation and increased litter surrounding the area.

While holding a shared concern about the state of homelessness in Hamilton, this Proposal is more aspirational than substantive and enables the city to evade the systematic challenges the community faces to address this problem. A necessary step requires strong engagement with city residents, housing authorities, police and mental health officials, as well as provincial and perhaps federal counterparts to develop partnerships towards a shared solution. This present Proposal appears to be lacking in that regard.

Sincerely
Kevin Brazil