

From: Ken Macdonald [REDACTED]
Sent: April 24, 2025 7:30 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Petition to designate public libraries as safe drug consumption sites.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hi in a good way.

I am opposed to this petition: Petition to designate public libraries as safe drug consumption sites (SDCS).

1. No drugs are safe.
2. I am opposed to the word libraries in the plural sense. Name the three libraries mentioned in the petition and I leave it at that. The word libraries means all of them across the whole city. So remove this plurality from the petition.
3. I suggest alternative sites, in no particular order as:
 - A. Shoppers drug marts locations as they are ubiquitous and some are open until 12 pm. And associated with many drugs.
 - B. LCBO locations are ubiquitous and are associated with the drug alcohol. Also open until 9:00 or 10:00 and could be open longer to accommodate drug users beyond alcohol users.
 - C. Coffee shops as they are associated with the drug caffeine. And ubiquitous.
 - D. At the men's shelter across the street from the central library. As this seems to be a source.
 - E. At any church or religious facility which are also ubiquitous in any and all communities.
 - F. Maybe a better place to put SDCS might be at bars, pubs, taverns etc. Under the auspices of the LCBO. All are associated with the drug alcohol.
 - G. Any cannabis outlet as they are ubiquitous and familiar with dealings with drug influenced humans.

How far removed is a SDCS. than what used to known as an opium den?

Perhaps I am old thinking in that a library is a place a young teenager or younger, might be a safe place to drop off one of these newly independent and influential youthful persons for

an hour or two. Last statement based on prevalence of electronic artificial reality and online access to literature / entertainment.

Sure someone might dose at the safe consumption site. However they may latter be nodding off or bad tripping in the stacks or at the entrance of the library.

The thought in the parents head would be here is a safe place for my child as I let them begin a journey into the reality of adulthood.

Now consider all the high rise developments in downtown Hamilton. All are somewhat close to transit and the library.

Do you see these buildings filled with seniors interested in a safe trip to the library? Or do you see them filled with young families fearful of letting children go to the library?

Also I read about redevelopment of a garment building (Copley?) across from central library. Have you considered this in relation to SDCS.

Another consideration would be the relocation of the Salvation Army facilities along with SDCS to a new location.

At present I say no to this petition.

Do NOT contact me from this time forward for anything related to this petition.

In all of the above, chew on the past prevalence of tobacco in our society and the swallow the past repression of alcohol in our society.

Peace.

Ken MacDonald.