

To the Chair and Councilors of the General Issues Committee.

The members of The Friends of St. Giles would like to voice their opposition to the granting of taxpayer funds to New Vision United Church. New Vision and the Music Alliance will be constructing a private for profit venue inside of this designated structure and are asking for almost 3.9 million dollars of funds in total. \$900,000 today with a further \$3million in grants plus \$100,000 start up funds as per the GIC minutes of February 7th 2024.

New Vision has other assets at their disposal, namely the former St. Giles which should be sold to finance this conversion. At a time where citizens are struggling to pay high rents and with rising food costs along with a city council tax rate increase again in 2025. It is getting beyond the ability of pensioners and middle income wage earners to finance every pie in the sky venture that comes along.

The total ask for 3.9 million dollars would finance another 40-50 tiny homes and the wrap around services required in a much better use of funds. Maybe purchase the former St Giles from New Vision in exchange for music hall financing and convert the sanctuary and property into social housing. If a combined community/library space was included a further \$400,000 private donation would be available. The adaptive housing project would preferably be in concert with Indwell or Mission Services.

This is a use of hard earned taxpayer funds that the Friends of St. Giles and the citizens of Hamilton can get behind.

Thank you

Graham Carroll  
Chair Friends of St Giles

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