

DECISION LETTER

PUBLIC SHELTER POLICY DEVELOPMENT – DOWNTOWN TILLSONBURG BIA ZONE

DTBIA Board of Management Meeting

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

Moved by: H. Vallee Seconded by: E. Odorjan

THAT the report titled ED 24-04-01 Public shelter policy + development; and unhoused drop-in centre be received as information; and that the recommendations contained therein be respectfully forwarded to the Council of the Town of Tillsonburg for consideration in the development of policy with respect to the location of unhoused persons support services in the downtown central business district.

Carried: Defeated: Approved by: *B. Parsons*



Report ED 2024-04-01

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meeting date: 04/24/2024

AMENDED REPORT TO BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Public shelter policy development

Proposed homeless drop-in centre

To: Board of Management

From: Executive Director

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the report be received as information.
- 2) That the board does not support the location of a homeless drop-in centre at this municipal address.
- 3) That the board formally notifies the Town of Tillsonburg about the concerns noted and requests that a proactive mitigation plan be considered for implementation.
- 4) That consideration be given for the development of a DTBIA policy paper on the location of homeless support services in the downtown core area in consultation with County Planning and other stakeholders.
- 5) That the DTBIA formally advocates for the safety, security, and aesthetics of all downtown areas.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Salvation Army (Tillsonburg) is opening a drop-in centre at 147 Broadway.
- Business owners adjacent to this municipal address have expressed serious concern and the potential negative impacts.
- There is limited information available about this proposal.
- Staff have researched and determined that such facilities as proposed, create the conditions that are detrimental to pedestrian traffic leading to a decline in sales of neighbouring businesses.
- Staff have discussed the matter with the Town's Chief Building Official.
- There has been overwhelmingly negative feedback received from the public regarding the opening of a homeless support centre at this location.
- The community is supportive of having important services for this constituency however the location is problematic from a safety, security, and aesthetic perspective.

- There was no formal communication with the DTBIA about this initiative.
- The Executive Director has met with stakeholders in the neighbourhood on 3 occasions.
- It is unknown whether the tenant has applied for a business licence.
- At present, there is no policy document or position on record by the DTBIA.
- The DTBIA has not been formally consulted by any stakeholders related to this matter.

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S)

As per the summary recommendations, that the Board of Management considers the report with possible courses of action including future policy development with social support system(s).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from adoption of the recommendations.