



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg
Legislative Services Department
55 King Street West
Cobourg, ON K9A 2M2

Delegation Request Form

Please submit the completed Delegation Request Form to the Municipal Clerk in person or by mail to 55 King Street West, Cobourg, ON K9A 2M2, by e-mail to clerk@cobourg.ca, or by fax to (905) 372-7558.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Delegate(s):

Rev. Neil Ellis

Group/Organization/Business Delegation Represents (if applicable):

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

2. MEETING SELECTION

I wish to appear before:

Committee of the Whole Regular Council Advisory Committee or Local Board

If appearing before an Advisory Committee or Local Board please specify:

Press to Select a Committee of Board

Meeting Date Requested:

July 4, 2022

3. DELEGATION REQUEST

General Nature/Purpose of the Delegation:

(Clearly state the nature of the business to be discussed & provide a general summary of the information to be presented)

Speical Meeting of Council re: allowing individuals to shelter in place

That Cobourg engage in meaningful dialogue and take leadership on the issue of housing.

Recommendation to Council/Committee/Board:

(Please indicate below what action you would like the Town to take with respect to the above-noted subject matter)

Suspend enforcement of the bylaws which impact those who do not have permanent housing which prevent them from sheltering in place.

Develop concrete plans to address the issue through temporary or permanent measures through the use of public land.

Have you appeared before the Town of Cobourg's Council or its Committees or Boards in the past to discuss this issue?

Yes No

4. PRESENTATION MATERIAL

Will you have an oral or written presentation? Oral Written

Do you have any equipment needs? Yes No

If selecting yes, please indicate the type of equipment needed for your presentation:

Please Select the Type of Equipment

Note: Delegates are required to provide one (1) copy of all background material/presentations prior to the deadline provided in the Delegation Rules and Guidelines below, or it will not be included in the Agenda.

To members of Council and fellow residents of Cobourg:

I am sorry that I am unable to attend this Special Meeting of Council to discuss the vital situation around individuals' rights to shelter. However, I am grateful that Council has heard the voice of the community. I hope that in partnership with other levels of government and with the support of the community of Cobourg decisive action might take place.

We are all aware of the housing crisis and difficulty finding suitable housing at a level that individuals can afford. We know that our shelter spaces are full and that there are no immediate permanent solutions. As residents of Cobourg, we have watched this situation continue to erode over the past few years. The question before us now is will we continue to allow individuals who call Cobourg home to live without appropriate shelter?

A moratorium on the enforcement of bylaws that impact individuals who, without alternate housing or accommodation, are sheltering in tents, cars, or otherwise is a good first step. How might we further assist these individuals and ensure their dignity is respected? Might space and services be made available on public lands to provide a safe space for those who wish to shelter there.

The challenge of appropriate shelter is not unique to Cobourg. Other municipalities, large and small, are also grappling with crisis. Might we look to what others are doing and also step forward to provide leadership. In doing so let's engage in meaningful dialogue with one another and ensure that those affected by the lack of housing have a voice as they will be directly impacted by any decisions made.

I look forward to the continued dialogue and meaningful action that will ensue.

Sincerely,

Rev. Neil Ellis
Minister
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church