



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):

Brad Bridges

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

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 Special Meeting

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)

To share my experience as a homeless person in Cobourg for the past 11 months

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)

To stop bylaw enforcement against homeless people and let people with nowhere else to go to set up tents until we find a place to live

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.

Hi my name is Brad.

My fiance and I have now been homeless for 11 months. It's been the hardest 11 months of my life. We have been through so many hardships that I have lost count. Before I was homeless, I had the privilege of having my two boys, Ashton and Landon every weekend. I loved every second of being with them.

Now because I'm homeless, I haven't seen them in 6 months. It might not be a long time for some, but for me it feels like an eternity. I am missing out on the most crucial part of their lives. I can't see them because I have no place or home to bring them, nor do I feel like the options I am given are safe enough for them.

I would bring them camping with me, but every time I set up a spot we are always pushed out by the bylaw enforcement agency and I can't move my children around every other day, and any other time it is just too cold.

Being homeless makes me feel so hopeless. My children have been bullied in school because of me and that is just not fair.

I work part time construction and my fiancee has monthly income and we can easily afford first and last month's rent, and rent for the rest of the months to follow, but nobody will rent to us. It's not because we are bad people or don't have references, but because I don't have any credit. I don't see why it matters that much as long as rent is being paid. I lived in my last home for 12 years and didn't miss one single rent payment.

I believe that citizens of this community should not turn their backs on us or give us the cold shoulder because we are still people. Some of the people that are less fortunate like me are some of the sweetest and kindest people I know. Just because they don't have a home or a car, they will still give the shirt off their backs and help in any way possible, I mean that's got to say something, and I'm telling you this now that one day when the world is falling apart, the more fortunate ones will need our help as we need yours now.

I know a lot of us don't have jobs, but trust me when I tell you that being homeless is one of the hardest jobs in the world.

It takes a toll on every aspect of your life. I really don't understand why most people give us such a hard time for camping, there is so much land that can be shared. Whatever happened to "love thy neighbor", or "peace, love and prosperity."

It's hard enough to live on the streets with nothing but being treated like nothing is even worse. I know that we are looked at differently because some are addicted to drugs or alcohol, but then again, so are people with homes and families. If you were to take a poll, I can almost guarantee you that seventy five percent of homeless people will tell you that they use drugs daily to help ease the pain and block out the rest of the world of being scrutinized. Quite frankly, I think it's disgusting the way most people would love us to just disappear, then they think they would have no more burdens. We're not the ones that give the burden, they do that to themselves because all they do is worry when they don't have to, because even though we are homeless and have nothing to show, you will see that 90 percent of the time we have a smile on our faces. It's a weird thing that the more fortunate are miserable and we are not, but make no mistake, we have our moments. I just wish there were more caring people in the world like the people sitting here in this room tonight, people who truly do care because if you didn't you wouldn't be here, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If there were more people like you, we probably wouldn't have to be here tonight. But there isn't so here we are.

This pushing people along has got to stop, we don't deserve to be treated this way. Like I said at the last community meeting, I might as well be in jail, because I will have access to a phone to talk to my boys, I'll have three solid meals a day, and I won't have to worry about where I'm going to lay my head at night. I shouldn't have to feel this way, it's just not right.

So before my time is up, I would just like to say thank you for everyone's support and all the wonderful things that you have done for us, it is so greatly appreciated. Hopefully, one day there will be a conclusion to all of this and we won't have to do this again. We are man kind, and we can be kind, man, so let's all help each other, because we all deserve to be comfortable. Godbless, thank you, and goodnight.

Brad Bridges