

From: [Barbara Buntin](#)
To: [Sue Bernardi](#)
Subject: Last night's arrest at a community event
Date: March 16, 2023 1:23:12 PM

To the Cobourg Police Department and Police Services Board ,

I have become aware of an arrest made by your officers last evening that is of concern to me. The incident occurred after a community meeting at Trinity Church. The meeting that was carefully planned as an opportunity for citizens, housed or unhoused, healthy or addicted , advantaged or disadvantaged to work together to support one another and find solutions. I can't think of a more positive effort for change and growth as a compassionate community than an evening like that.

I understand that there was a legal reason for the arrest, my concern is the timing and location.

According to the mandates outlined in last May's Provincial funding announcement regarding homelessness and addiction resources, the first priority of that funding is:

- Strengthen collaborative community approaches in addressing challenges facing the community.

In a collaborative environment, all stakeholders are consulted and trust is a fundamental principle. In this case, rather than collaborate with the generous parties involved in planning the event, the Cobourg Police Department chose to use that carefully planned event to ambush this person for arrest .

All trust that had been established over time between this person who is clearly struggling and the various people willing to offer support to help end the cycle of harm , was likely shattered in that moment.

Will other events and offers of support by this group be seen as opportunities for the Cobourg Police to swoop in? Other vulnerable folks will certainly have concerns that they will.

Police officers have their duties to perform but surely not at the expense of the important and potentially life saving efforts of their community partners.

Respectfully
Barbara Buntin
Bagot Street
Cobourg

Sent from my iPhone