

From: Warren Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:46 AM
Subject: (EXTERNAL SOURCE) 310 Division St, Cobourg

To The Councillors of the Town of Cobourg and Northumberland County,

My name is Warren Smith. I am a Cobourg resident and have worked as a Physiotherapist in the community for the past 15 years as an employee of Cobourg Orthopaedic and Sports Injury Clinic at 301 Division Street, Cobourg.

I am writing to echo the concerns of my colleagues, Dr. Hillary Allen and Mr. Jeff Crowley and all of the residential and commercial residents in the immediate vicinity of the recently approved low barrier shelter at 310 Division Street. I have been a front-row witness to the impact the current Transition House has had on the Chapel and Division neighbourhood since it became a low barrier shelter. I have been a victim of property crime at my workplace and felt concern for the safety of my patients who enter and leave our facility, often after dark. I am concerned that these issues have not been addressed and resolved sufficiently prior to the approval of the new, larger, low-barrier shelter at 310.

I am aware that the Town of Whitby has recently opened a similar facility. I understand that the Region has entered a legally-binding agreement to ensure the proper management of the facility and provide some assurance to the local residents and businesses that their safety and ability to live and run a business is a priority. The Region did not have to enter this agreement but did as a matter of good governance. I believe that Northumberland County needs to take a close look at this agreement and the precedent set by our neighbours in Whitby. To open a low-barrier shelter in our downtown core without the proper safety and maintenance guidelines in place seems completely irresponsible. I ask that the councillors take this matter seriously to ensure the proper measures are in place prior to opening 310 Division Street.

I would be happy to discuss this further with any Councillor who wishes further perspective from a resident who has lived in the downtown core for that past 15 years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Warren Smith