

I find it inexcusable that Kathryn McGarry and her council would railroad the decision to approve 150 Main St to be a safe injection site with no consideration of the local businesses, retirement buildings, the neighbours in the downtown Galt area and most concerning, the school which is in such close proximity that the children can see that building from the school yard. Clearly it's a decision by people that don't live in the area who will not be affected in any way.

At this same meeting, it struck me as being staged beforehand by some of council and the mayor but this is only my 'uneducated' and 'fearful' opinion. What if you are wrong and it turns out to be a disaster? What happens then? Do the citizens get to say it was a mistake and close the facility? My guess is we're stuck with your bad decision.

One of Kathryn's pledges when she was running for Mayor was that the only location for the CTS was the hospital which I am reluctantly in agreement with as well since it falls in the midpoint between Preston and Galt. Councillor Jan Liggett pointed out some grave concerns, and yet others raised their voice in opposition to her sage comments. I would respectfully hope that all our duly appointed councillors would be allowed to voice their concerns, without fear of being admonished for a differing view.

Your set agenda was, unfortunately, to bait and switch locations for the site in the first place. Bait and switch is a crime in the consumer world and there are measures in place to protect the public but how is it that it's acceptable that elected city council and the Mayor can get away with it? Any crime against the public is still a crime. I implore you and council to reconsider your decision and take into account the concerns of the people that put you in the power seats in the first place. I had hoped for better when McGarry became Mayor but my vision for a safe Cambridge is gravely challenged.

One example is the carnage in the downtown core which has increased 10 fold in the past 3 years. If you think it's normal to walk down Main St to try and shop or go to a restaurant with people swearing at you and having to walk around hords of loitering panhandling homeless not to mention the nightly raids on homeowners and business owner's property then you're sadly mistaken and need to take charge. As I'm writing this, a man is walking down the street yelling obscenities and calling people out for a fight which happens multiple times every day. This is disturbing to say the least.

Do you want to go downtown - I certainly don't and who would? It's time for tough love, not coddling and handholding and certainly not feeding addiction further. 150 Main Street has been in place for years with the necessary resources and help for these people but I don't see it getting better so how is inviting people in to get high going to help? In conclusion I would like to say that I have never felt so let down by the people that were elected to help and protect us in my life! I must commend Jan Liggett and Nicholas Ermeta for speaking the concerns of the people.

Bob Godglick

A Proud, Law Abiding and Taxpaying Resident of Cambridge