

(Please include my letter on the agenda for the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 12th, 2021. Item 7.1.1 re 21-293)

Dear Council,

I am writing in regards to 21-293 (CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Site Identification Community Consultation Summary report and to share my opposition to a CTS site anywhere in Cambridge.

I have been a resident of Cambridge now for 12 years (in November) and have been running a local window cleaning company serving the region for the last 4 years. We originally moved to Cambridge because we felt it was a quiet, peaceful, and great community, one where my wife and I felt would be an ideal place to raise our son. Our feelings over the last few years have quickly begun to change as more and more issues appear in our daily lives with connection to the rampant drug use and addiction that has been increasing quickly in our beautiful city. We have come across needles in parks, run into homeless camps while on trails, encounter more and more people downtown that are walking around like zombies, and have had our vehicles broken into on multiple occasions. Our neighbourhood is now one that is full of cameras on virtually every home. This is not the neighbourhood, the community, the city we chose to move to.

I, along with an overwhelming number of other residents of Cambridge, am strongly against a CTS site anywhere in Cambridge. There has been extensive research done where the evidence clearly points to the failure of these sites to help those struggling with addiction. Instead, our community needs more centres that support the rehabilitation of those addicted and provide preventative education to our schools and community.

I strongly request that the Council steps up and respects the opinion of our community, and says NO to any CTS sites in Cambridge. I would like to continue to be a contributing resident of Cambridge for years to come, but failure to say no to CTS in Cambridge will certainly force me and many others to abandon this city we love.

Sincerely,

Jeff Besharah