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October 8, 2021

RE: OPPOSITION NOTICE TO THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL CTS SITE

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in representation of the Board of Directors of the Montessori School of Cambridge, as well as our entire Montessori community.

We understand there has been an increase in both opioid usage and deaths within our City. The facts surrounding usage and deaths are disheartening and we want to offer our thank you to all those who continue to advocate and care for those in these troubling situations.

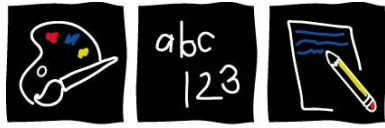
Our school houses 85 children ages 18 months to 6 years and we employ 17 staff. The school is located on Roseview Avenue in a beautiful yellow brick building. It is our purpose as Montessori Educators not only to support and foster healthy relationships and community, but to in fact delve deeper and play an important role in raising children who are confident, self-assured and have strong leadership skills. We work with children to ensure they have compassion for others with a focus on community awareness and helping others.

With the above being said, the Montessori School of Cambridge has been the epitome of diversity, culture, education, community and family for very nearly 50 years in Cambridge/Galt; generations of families have attended and supported our school. Furthermore, we have created a safe place for families within our community.

Being a member of the Cambridge/Galt community since 1972, we feel this contribution and dedication must continue now and well into the future. We must stand with our many families who live within close proximity and are safely able to walk from their houses to school without being at risk of crime related events. In addition, it is our duty as educators to provide a safe place for families and children to attend school.

While we understand that the approved distance from a "Consumption and Treatment Services" site (CTS) to schools or daycares is at least 200m, our school is 280m away; not far outside of this approved acceptable distance. It is also located within a residential neighbourhood and is surrounded by family homes; which is not part of the criteria for a CTS site location. In addition, the proposed travel route from the Bridges and Downtown Core up Cambridge St. is a short 66m to our school if they choose to take this route. They could in fact go up Park Hill, which would then lead them to go right past our school on their way to the CTS site. Both of these scenarios are unacceptable in keeping our children and families safe.

Page 2 of 2



Montessori
SCHOOL OF CAMBRIDGE

· Toddler · Preschool · JK/SK ·

Further, Laneway 173 is directly behind our school and is adjacent to our playground. This creates another clear pathway between the school and the CTS site as well as providing a sheltered area for those using and discarding needles. We have grave concern that by having a CTS site so close to the school and within a residential area, this will promote more crime related activity.

Quite pointedly, by having a CTS so close to our school, it will put our business at risk of closure due to parents not wanting to send their young children to a school that is in such close proximity.

We empathize with the complexity of the ongoing opioid crisis and hope that alternative options are provided to help those in need.

In conclusion, the proposed CTS location is unacceptable and we oppose such a site being in any residential community.

Sincerely,

Theresa Dejmek, A.M.I., R.E.C.E., M.A., B.Ed., B.A.
Principal