

RE: SAFE INJECTION SITE

90 MULCASTER STREET, BORDERING McDONALD & CODRINGTON STREETS, BARRIE

**(SAME BUILDING COMPLEX AS 88 MULCASTER STREET, BARRIE
LOCATION OF DAVID BUSBY STREET CENTRE)**

We are the downtown residents and property owners surrounding the building in which the David Busby Street Centre is located. We understand that a safe injection site is under consideration to be located immediately next door to the Street Centre. We know that the addition of a safe injection site will only exacerbate the problems we are experiencing with the civility of the people who use the Street Centre's services.

These problems have become insurmountable, dangerous and threatening to all of us, and need to be addressed immediately.

For us the situation has become disabling and debilitating, affecting our reasonable right to live safely and peaceably, free from grief, anxiety, frustration and anger. Our emotional and mental health are at risk.

The severity of the situation has only increased over the past five years. We now live in fear twenty-four hours each day. The danger will increase in the coming summer months. Our once quiet neighbourhood is now a living hell. We can no longer enjoy our homes or go outside.

Despite the recent extensive renovations to the interior of the Street Centre's premises for expanded services, nothing was done on the outside to protect the neighbourhood.

We respectfully ask that City Council address our needs. The Centre is allowing these problems to flourish. The situation cannot continue.

Some examples of the conduct that we are continuing to experience are as follows:

1. Publicly exposing themselves and urinating on private and city property, i.e. our cars, gardens, driveways and garages. There have been incidents of lawn defecation;
2. Improperly discarding garbage, beer cans, hypodermic sharps and other such litter in areas other than provided waste bins;

3. Loitering on McDonald Street, especially concerning the side door and back parking lot. Under the current arrangement, smoking and loud, vulgar language continuously disrupt us in our homes;
4. Traffic on McDonald Street is disrupted by illegal parking and clients of the Centre wandering down the middle of the road;
5. Public sexual acts and intravenous drug use occur the parking lot and surrounding area;
6. The Centre leaves its service truck running for excessive amounts of time, causing noise and pollution without consideration to the neighbours or the environment;
7. Shopping carts and various personal belongings are being abandoned on the road and left for residents to properly discard;
8. Barrie Police, fire trucks and ambulances are frequently required to attend at all hours, creating a strain on city resources and making it impossible for residents to conduct life in functional fashion;
9. Loud, angry shouting outside the Centre between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.;
10. Centre clients threaten residents verbally, creating an on-going environment of harassment, fear and hostility.

Some proposed solutions for working together to create a safer neighbourhood:

1. Building a fence along the frontage of McDonald Street, as well as designating an area for client use;
2. Moving the picnic table to the front of the building and similarly providing a fence for that area;
3. Employing a security guard available on premises while open;
4. Clients should not be left to socialize for hours on end. The Busby Centre is not a recreational centre. It is there to serve a defined need;
5. Turning truck off when not in use;
6. Using the front door located at 88 Mulcaster Street as the main entrance, as this is the David Busby Centre's designated address;
7. Ensuring the front entrance is wheelchair accessible;
8. Prioritizing a stronger police presence and sense of support on McDonald Street. For example, Barrie City Police appointing an officer to act as a liaison between

McDonald Street residents and The David Busby Centre. (We understand that Constable Holden used to hold that position but has since retired and no replacement has been arranged);

9. Early termination of lease, as we are living in constant stress, fear and anxiety, having to perpetually manage these disruptive problems.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

**PETITION SIGNED BY 20 RESIDENTS CONCERNING
THE PROPOSED SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE
(19-G-168)**