



Durham Region Labour Council

Oct 26th, 2022

Oshawa City Council Members

City hall Oshawa

50 Centre Street South

Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3Z7

Dear Council Members,

It has been reported in the news recently about the City of Oshawa's attempts to dislodge members of the community who are experiencing homelessness from residing and/or sleeping under the overpass on John Street in Oshawa adjacent to the Midtown Mall using devices which emit a high-pitched sound that is designed to make remaining at that location unpleasant.

At our October 2022 general meeting, the Durham Region Labour Council adopted a motion unanimously decrying this tactic and left us resolving to demand that this device be removed immediately.

While the problems with those who are experiencing homelessness are real and sometimes even pose a health or safety concern to the general public, the Durham Region Labour Council feels strongly that there are far more humane tactics that could be used to deal with the current homeless situation engulfing not only Oshawa, but cities throughout our country.

We urge the city council to explore other ways in which the homeless epidemic could be addressed. Simply treating our citizens who are experiencing homelessness as cattle to be pushed on to some other area of concern does not address the systemic problems that our city and our country are facing.

Those members of our community who are experiencing homelessness seldom choose to live this way and as such, we ought to find ways of compassion to assist those in need in our community.

The use of high-sounding devices to negate the use of overpasses as shelters is inhumane and deplorable and as such, the Durham Region Labour Council is imploring city council to immediately cease use of this and any other such devices in our city and to commence an initiative to dedicate resources towards finding better ways to support the issues those experiencing homelessness in our community are facing.

Our citizens deserve better and we are demanding it.

We need to hear back from City Council about this issue of humane treatment for all our citizens as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Chris Borgia, Durham Region Labour Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CBorgia', is placed over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp.