

CNCL-25-51

From: Cindy Malachowski <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 2:30 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Cc: * Council <council@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Support for Motion on Downtown Drug Enforcement

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of Oshawa City Council,

I am writing in support of the motion introduced by Councillor McConkey and seconded by Councillor Neal regarding the enforcement of drug-related offences in Oshawa's downtown.

I manage several commercial and residential properties in the core and have invested significant time and capital in Oshawa's revitalization. As someone who works closely with local businesses, property owners, and community organizations in the downtown core, I can confidently say this motion reflects the growing frustration and exhaustion among those of us trying to maintain safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Over the past few years, downtown Oshawa has seen a steady erosion of public trust and commercial viability. While many factors contribute to this decline, one issue continues to undermine all revitalization efforts: the visible and unchecked open use of illicit substances in and around our core public spaces. This ongoing dynamic impacts not only perceptions of safety but the very real ability of people in recovery, small business owners, customers, and frontline staff to function without fear or repeated trauma.

Like many others, I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of this permissive environment: trespassing, aggressive behavior, vandalism, open drug use/dealing outside legitimate businesses, copper theft, intimidation of clients, tenant turnover/lost revenue, and a general breakdown of accountability. When these behaviours go unchecked, we send a clear message that the downtown is ungoverned and unprotected—despite the many efforts of those working every day to turn that around.

This is not a call for punitive action in isolation. It is a call for balance: for visible consequences to visible harm. For a system that recognizes the line between harm reduction and community degradation. For enforcement policies that support—not sabotage—the hard work being done by recovery agencies, local entrepreneurs, and DRPS.

I urge Council to support this motion and to back it with meaningful collaboration with Durham Regional Police, community service providers, and downtown stakeholders.

Enforcement is not the full answer—but without it, we are continuing to signal that downtown Oshawa is exempt from both safety and care.

Sincerely,

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Cindy Malachowski

Lord Simcoe Place

From: <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 1:50 PM

To: * Council <council@oshawa.ca>

Cc: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>; Rosemary McConkey <RMcConkey@oshawa.ca>; John Neal <JNeal@oshawa.ca>; Dan Carter <DCarter@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Motion CNCL 25-45 - City Council June 23, 2025

Dear City Council,

I understand that a motion is to be discussed at City Council's upcoming meeting (Moted by McConkey, seconded by Neal) concerning enforcement against drug use in Oshawa's downtown. I am writing to indicate my strong support for this motion, both as a business owner (Victory Cigars, Old West Cannabis) and resident of Oshawa.

I have lived in this City since 1968. During this time, I have witnessed a great change in the downtown. The downtown used to be the heartbeat of Oshawa, and citizens patronized the businesses and services regularly for much of this time.

The decline and neglect in the downtown started occurring in earnest once rampant drug use began to be tolerated. For my businesses, this has been evidenced through trespassing, vandalism and damage that are direct results of this permissive attitude. I will give you some quick examples:

- We have had to call the police for individuals shooting up and passing out underneath our backyard deck;
- We've had to clean human feces from our driveway and steps;
- Recently, our Central Air Conditioning unit was vandalized, necessitating an \$800 repair. Once fixed, the vandals struck again 48h later; this necessitated another \$1200 repair (worse damage) plus \$1500 for the installation of a metal cage around the AC unit. The thefts were staged by an individual supporting an illicit drug habit. Police verified the perpetrator was caught but prosecutors declined to proceed. (Media reports 12 businesses have been vandalized; this grossly understates the scale of the vandalism. The AC contractor estimated the repair bills for copper theft AC vandalism in Oshawa alone at over \$800,000; obviously, this problem is orders of magnitude greater than reported.)

- We've had drug dealers accosting visitors to our Cannabis store, trying to intercept them and get them to buy illegal drugs instead of entering our premises.
- Shoplifters have entered the store and been chased from the premises; one gentleman who was chased started throwing drug paraphernalia from his pockets during the pursuit
- Two weeks ago, a customer driving to our store had a large rock thrown at her car by a man who has been using drugs in the neighbourhood. When she pulled into our parking lot, he ran at her aggressively and she drove away. We're dubious about whether she will return to our store (she phoned us to relay the story), and are quite certain her tale will discourage others from shopping downtown.

In all instances, Police were called and reports were filed, but the running joke seems to be that there is no will to prosecute any of these crimes. And make no mistake, these are all crimes. The police are frustrated, as are the business owners, customers and citizens of this City.

It is time for City Council to govern and take back Oshawa's downtown.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Luke

From: Laura Vaillancourt <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 2:49 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>; clerk@oshawa.ca

Cc: Ron Wilson <ron@dougwilsonmenswear.com>

Subject: CNCL-25-45

Dear Clerk Office,

Please include this response to City of Oshawa Council on the CNCL-25-45 motion/recommendation copied below.

It is our view that the harm done to first-hand users of any controlled/uncontrolled drugs for recreational and/or medical use that causes disruption to the community at large and the family members/loved ones of those using/misusing those substances needs intervention by professionals. These interventions are varied and numerous as this matter presents a plethora of singular circumstances and effects. It is paramount, however; that these interventions and supports be administered, developed and implemented by the medical professionals, rather than any/all so-called social agencies. Many well meaning organizations commit to handling these matters, yet, are completely void of professional knowledge, licensing, medical knowledge, additions knowledge and licensing. As well, and it could be said, most importantly the experience base from which to serve and lead this endeavour.

This motion goes to an extent of outlining parameters that can serve the regular uses of open community spaces. We would like to see a more formalized professional multi-tiered government agency for supporting those affected by substance abuse/addiction to move toward living their best life.

Cheers,

Laura

Laura Vaillancourt and Ron Wilson

<M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>