



June 13, 2021.

Subject: Transparency and consultation wrt Cornerstone and future such facilities.

Dear Mayor Watson, Ms. Gray, and Mr. Kanellakos,

We are writing because we understand that Cornerstone Housing for Women has been asked to prematurely vacate their temporary location at the University of Ottawa's Friel Residence. As the City searches for a new temporary location for Cornerstone — and considers the placement of future services for those who are unhoused and those who may require mental health and addictions support — we compel you to be transparent and hold community consultations.

This request comes from a place of care and concern: Our ward is oversaturated with shelters, harm reduction facilities, and other social services. While we profoundly support Cornerstone's mission to provide essential emergency services to women and members of the LGBTQ community, our ward cannot continue to be asked to shoulder a disproportionate number of shelters and service providers relative to all other wards in the city without significant safeguards being put into place to ensure community health,

safety, and well-being are maintained for all neighbours—including those who depend on said services.

Our ward is already home to the Ottawa Mission, St. Joseph's Women's Shelter, Centre 454, the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, and Respect RX Recovery Care. During the pandemic, two additional temporary respite and social distancing centres were introduced: Saint Paul's-Eastern United Church and the Ottawa Jail Hostel. These temporary facilities were established in the neighbourhood without community consultation.

The community was only informed of these decisions ex post facto, and no further updates on the status of either location has been provided to the community even though the City of Ottawa has reneged on its publicly declared intention to close these facilities after the winter months. This has eroded public trust and confidence.

Further, this failure to hear and consider community voices must not continue, be it for this decision about Cornerstone or others surrounding the more permanent location of social service facilities.

We look forward to working with you on this and all related matters.

Susan Khazaeli, PhD