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THE CORPORATION OF
THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

From: Glynis Andersson <[redacted]
Sent: March 5, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Info
Cc: Brian Taylor; Zak Eburne-Stoodley; Cathy Korolek; Neil Krog; Christine Thompson; rzelinski@grandforks.ca
Subject: Letter re. Whispers of Hope Proposed Community Soup Kitchen location

To: Mayor, Brian Taylor, and Council Members
From: Glynis Andersson
Date: March 4, 2019

Re: Whispers of Hope Proposed Community Kitchen at 7229 - 5th Street

My husband and I first settled in Grand Forks about 7 years ago. We came here, not for work, or for family reasons, but simply because we fell in love with the beauty of the valley, and the friendliness of the people. We were proud of our new home and often told our friends and family what a great little town this was.

Fast forward to present day: It grieves me that for the most part, I am ashamed to say that I live here, and I am hesitant to invite friends or family to come for a visit. "Why?", you might ask. Because almost every day, I am witnessing the behavior of people who have no desire to conform or abide by the rules, no respect for others or their property, and obviously, no loyalty to this town and the people who work so hard trying to make it a great place to live.

We have personally experienced homeless camps on our property, seeing addicts shooting up drugs in front of our house, having garbage dumped on our property, having our property stolen, finding drug needles and dumped clothing, etc. only meters from our property, and being spoken with abusively by people who didn't even live in the neighborhood. On different occasions, we called the bylaw officer and/or the police, but we were repeatedly told that nothing could be done.

We attended the large meeting at the high school about a year or two ago - the one where Sargeant Fenske told all the frustrated residents in attendance how little power the RCMP actually have to arrest the offending individuals, how understaffed the Grand Forks detachment is, yet how vigilantism in any form, would not be tolerated. It seems very ironic to me that almost any type of offensive behaviour against an individual and/or his or her property is routinely tolerated, but defending one's person or property by whatever means necessary is not tolerated.

Over time, we have heard story after story from friends, neighbors, and acquaintances here in Grand Forks, how they were victims of crime, verbal abuse, and even violent assault.

So, I ask you now, when are we, the respectable property owners and business owners who contribute so much both financially and otherwise, to the flourishing of our town, going to have our voices heard? I hope your answer is, "Today", because as residents in the downtown area, we have had so much taken away from us, including rights as fundamental as feeling safe walking around town, and the security of knowing our children and grandchildren are safe playing in the park.

FILE CODE
WE3 & C10 - Andersson, Glynis re Whispers Proposed Kitchen

Having described in detail the challenges my family, friends, and neighbors, have faced over the last few years living in the downtown area, I turn now to the proposed location for the Whispers of Hope Community Soup Kitchen on 5th Street. ***Based on our experience from the Whispers of Hope Soup Kitchen that was located on Riverside, we believe that the proposed Soup Kitchen on 5th Street will only serve to encourage marginalized individuals with drug addictions and criminal behavior to congregate in this area to an even greater degree than currently, which in turn, will subject the residents and businesses to even more problems. For that reason, on behalf of family, friends, neighbors, downtown business owners, and other concerned citizens of Grand Forks, I implore you to use whatever means necessary to ensure that Whispers of Hope not be allowed to operate their Community Kitchen in its proposed location on 5th Street.***

I thank you, Mayor and Council for taking the time to read and consider this letter.

Respectfully,

Glynis Andersson