



OSHAWA
ONTARIO, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF OSHAWA
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MAYOR DAN CARTER

August 24, 2021

Mayor John Grant
Township of Brock
1 Cameron Street East
PO Box 10
Cannington, ON L0E 1E0

Dear Mayor Grant,

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, your staff and your communities for coming together to deal with the challenges of COVID-19 with incredible commitment and innovation.

Throughout this period, we have seen a renewed sense of community. We have come together to help friends and neighbours weather the crisis and have learned that we are stronger working together when tragedy occurs in our communities.

In the City of Oshawa, we find ourselves in an emergency situation that has to do with the complex issues of individuals who are suffering from addiction, mental health, and being unsheltered. During the early part of the pandemic, the City of Oshawa worked with the Region of Durham and our social agencies to provide services for those individuals seeking assistance as many of the community supports were temporarily closed.

However, we are at a point where we no longer have the capacity to care for the complex issues of the unsheltered population, which numbers over 200. I'm writing today to ask for your assistance in addressing the health and safety challenges that we are facing in downtown Oshawa.

We have seen increased criminality on our streets and the downtown core that we have never seen before. We are asking for your support and help to advocate for additional police resources to address the criminality including the establishment of a special task force unit with specialized personnel.

I need you to help us ensure that we have the extra resources necessary from our social services and health departments to provide both on and off hour street presence to meet the needs of the unsheltered individuals and to actively work on reducing the concentration of services in Oshawa.

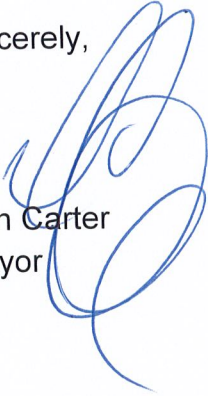
I need you to help advocate for Lakeridge Health to expand their inpatient program for people seeking addiction help and to be able to have the pathways available to support individuals with complex mental health issues.

I need you to advocate to our housing divisions to continue to look at innovative ways of creating housing so that all of our communities can meet the needs of those that are unsheltered, living, rough, or cannot find affordable housing.

I am asking each of you for your support and ideas to address these unprecedented challenges. I look forward to those conversations on how we can work together to find solutions for Durham Region and its municipalities.

Sincerely,

Dan Carter
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned to the right of the printed name 'Dan Carter Mayor'.