

MOTION: Addressing public safety concerns from residents and businesses regarding the Grace United Church property and Regeneration Outreach operations in downtown Brampton

Moved by Councillor Santos

Seconded by Councillor Keenan

Whereas Regeneration Outreach has operated at the Grace United Church property at 156 Main St North for nearly 15 years, serving some of the most vulnerable in our community with a food kitchen and other services such as basic needs, addiction services, and identification clinic;

And whereas Regeneration Outreach delegated to Council requesting assistance in finding a new location and the City of Brampton acknowledged and continues to acknowledge the contribution that Regeneration Outreach has made in our community, as they search for a new location which would be more appropriate outside of an existing and growing residential neighbourhood;

And whereas the City continues to receive ongoing and escalating public safety concerns arising from numerous service users and/or their affiliates of Regeneration Outreach on and around the Grace United Church property at 156 Main St N to include but not limited to the immediate residential neighbourhood, the 711, 164 & 166 Main St North, and 171 Main Street N;

And whereas there are a significant and increasing number of police calls, arrests, and nuisance on this property and the surrounding area involving the service users and/or their affiliates of Regeneration Outreach;

And whereas residents and surrounding businesses are ongoingly concerned for their health and safety, and demand immediate action from the City to include suggested action items shared (attached with redacted personal information) at a meeting on Monday, July

14th, attended by Councillor Santos, Councillor Keenan and Mayor Brown, Peel Police and City Security Services;

And whereas Regeneration Outreach receives funding from the Region of Peel through taxpayers' money;

And whereas Regeneration Outreach has delegated to City Council, publicly confirming that tents were distributed to service users despite the City's efforts to address unsafe encampments and trespassing on public property;

And whereas Regeneration Outreach and Grace United Church provide important services but are still responsible for the safety and security of their property, and the impact that service users and/or their affiliates have in the surrounding area;

And whereas the City, in collaboration with the Region of Peel, has worked to mitigate challenges between the vulnerable community and local businesses through the Welcoming Streets pilot program, which has since informed the development of an expanded, place-based Peel Outreach initiative, but ongoing and escalating public safety concerns persist at this particular property and adjacent area.

And whereas, in similar action, the City of Brampton is implementing policies and enforcing action on private and public properties related to public health and safety;

And whereas Brampton's downtown is undergoing significant transformation and construction to attract residential and business development and investment;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council hereby directs the City Solicitor (and with any additional staff) on behalf of the City of Brampton, send an official letter to Grace United Church, Regeneration Outreach and the Region of Peel outlining the serious health and safety concerns and requiring action to be taken to address the concerns immediately, or face further legal action.

Neighbourhood Safety Discussion

July 14, 9.30am

The residents of Alexander, Union and Church Street have a right to live in a safe, friendly and clean neighbourhood. We have been deprived of that right due to the operation of Regeneration Outreach and their lack of control of their clients.

Our neighbourhood, our properties and our families are suffering victimization year after year. We want action immediately. The following is our list of reasonable requests that are well within the capacity of the City, Regeneration Outreach, the landlord the United Church and the Police to provide. We believe a multifocal approach is needed.

Action Items

Regeneration:

- Move regeneration out of our (and any residential) neighbourhood as soon as possible.
- Until that time, hire security to ensure that users get their food and do not loiter on the property. Post no loitering signs so it is enforceable.
- *Additional security was hired for an extended period at 64 & 66 Main Street so the above request is not precedent setting.*
- Add a daily clean up of the Church grounds to the city's maintenance routine.

Crime and Safety

- Communicate with Peel Regional Police, asking them to put our community on “special alert” and have increased police patrols, especially between 12 am to 8 am. Request more bicycle patrols daily in this area.
- Have police enforce a zero tolerance to drugs, alcohol and loitering.
- Install speed bumps on Alexander and Union,(especially at the turn) to slow down the speed of traffic.

Central Public School

- Have security at the school strictly enforce no trespass on the school property and in the park after 11 pm. Post no trespass signs so it is enforceable.
- Request security patrol the park during day programs for children, to prevent interactions with drugs, sex and alcohol use in a public place.
- Remove the benches beside the ball diamonds as this provides seating for illegal activities and is a favourite gathering place for non-residents.
- Provide a separate entrance and exit on to Ellen Street to reduce the amount of traffic on Alexander.

Step Two

Engage the community in a “Community improvement area” north of the train overpass. Homeowners and property owners will be encouraged to clean up their grounds as part of a community effort. We will encourage our friends and neighbours to participate.