

Delegation Request

This request and any written submissions or background information for consideration by either Council or Committees of Council is being submitted to Legislative Services.

Council or Committee (Choose One) *

Council

Council or Committee Meeting Date * ?

2025-3-18



Subject *

Empowering Our Community and Supporting Our Mayor

Full Name of Spokesperson and Name of Group or Person(s) being Represented (if applicable) *

Linda Ma

Brief Summary of Issue or Purpose of Delegation *

I strongly oppose the motion for York Region resubmit the Zoning By-law Amendment for a Men's Emergency and Transitional Facility in Aurora for the following reasons:

1. The Shelter Model is Ineffective

Shelters models have consistently failed to reduce or prevent homelessness. Despite millions in funding, demand for shelters continues to grow. This model does not address root causes but creates a cycle of temporary solutions, preventing long-term recovery and reintegration.

2. Lack of Incentive for Rehabilitation

The shelter model offers food, shelter, and even access to substances—without accountability. This discourages self-improvement, recovery, and reintegration. If basic needs are provided without conditions, what motivation exists to become self-sufficient?

3. Wasteful Public Spending

This shelter will be run by Blue Door Shelter, which in 2023 received \$15 million in government funding, providing 50,000 shelter nights. This amounts to over \$300 per night per person, or \$110,000 per year—more than the GTA's average household income of \$97,000.

The new shelter's capital cost is \$23.5 million for just 68 beds. What will the ongoing cost be? \$600 per night? \$1,000? Blue Door has failed to run shelters efficiently in the past. Why will this be different?

Are we using taxpayers' money wisely?

4. A Better, Cost-Effective Alternative

Instead of spending millions on a high-cost shelter, why not fund a community-based housing approach? If willing host families received even \$200 per night (\$6,000 per month), they could provide personalized care in a structured environment, setting expectations for a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle, healthy habits, and employment goals. This approach would not only support individuals in need but also ease the financial burden on York Region families, making it a more sustainable and cost-effective solution.

For those not suited for host families, the government could provide temporary hotel stays at a fraction of the cost until employment and housing are secured as our hotels are running much more efficient than Blue Door.

For individuals with severe mental health or substance issues, shelters should be placed nature-based areas where they can receive specialized support—not in high-density residential neighborhoods.

6. Community Safety & Economic Concerns

We cannot risk tragic incidents like the Toronto case where teenage girls killed a homeless man. Similarly, no family in Aurora should have to endure the risks associated with placing individuals suffering from untreated mental health and substance abuse issues into high-density residential neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, we faced funding shortages in healthcare, child programs, and education. Yet, homelessness funding per person now exceeds the average household income. This penalizes hardworking families while encouraging dependency on government assistance.

7. Increased Financial and Mental Strain on Families

This project is adding stress and anxiety to our families, neighbors and the community at a time when we are already struggling with job pressures, rising mortgages and taxes, inflation, and a tariff war. This project is not helping the homeless—it is pushing more middle-class families in Aurora toward financial instability and, ultimately, homelessness themselves.

8. Standing with Our Mayor

Our mayor listened to residents and vetoed this motion, prioritizing the needs of families, workers, and businesses.

We strongly support our mayor and our community.

Have you been in contact with a Town staff or Council member regarding your matter of interest? *

Yes

No

I acknowledge that the Procedure By-law permits five (5) minutes for Delegations. *

Agree