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**Subject:** Letter of Concern to Council re: Proposal to Purchase 310 Division Street  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:53:26 PM

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**CAUTION:** External E-Mail

To Whomever it May Concern (Members of Northumberland County Council & Local Officials):

We are writing as local residents of downtown Cobourg.

We have just been made aware of the County's intention to purchase 310 Division Street in Cobourg on behalf of Transition House Shelter. It is extremely troubling that we had to find this out through local news reporting, as opposed to any type of direct outreach from the Town or County level.

As citizens of Cobourg and Northumberland County, local executives and politicians have a responsibility to keep its residents informed. You have failed on this topic.

Can you please explain to us how we are at a stage in this conversation where "final details on the acquisition of the property in Closed Session" takes place tomorrow?

The County has operated in a disingenuous and conniving way in issuing confidential reports seen by only Council and select staff, landing in a place where there is a building purchase happening with tax-payer money, without taxpayer buy-in or awareness. It is a deceitful approach to County business and matters that pertain to the long-term well-being of our community. County Council members from outside of Cobourg clearly have little concern over the health and safety of the Cobourg community or the long-standing impact that these decisions are going to have on its citizens.

Your decision to enter into this partnership should have been made public to the local community. Local homeowners and businesses have a right to know, provide opinion on and vote on these issues. We are asking that you stop this process now and engage local residents in the conversation. It is not your right as public officials to put the needs of homeowners and business owners behind those of others. While you may feel that, "The speed with which you moved on this opportunity demonstrates your resolute commitment", to the community that has to live with this decision, we know it to be careless and reckless with the lives of others who pay mortgages, rent and send their kids to school in the vicinity.

By turning this building into a shelter, you are forever changing the landscape of Division Street. Residents and retailers already struggling with drug and crime issues created by Transition House, etc. are now being forced to reckon with reduced housing values due to increased violence, and growing drug issues created by the permanent placement of this facility. It's simply unbelievable that you would purchase a building on behalf of the shelter

and not include the town in the conversation.

We ask that you please stop this conversation and do your due diligence in finding a location that does not sacrifice the needs of some for the needs of others. It is your legal responsibility to the taxpayers and citizens of Cobourg and Northumberland to not haphazardly make decisions that are going to change an entire neighbourhood forever. No staff member, county official, or political representative has the right to make back-door decisions without disclosure or feedback from the individuals who have to live with the outcomes of those decisions.

Please do the responsible thing and stop this process and talk to your community members, not select groups behind closed doors or via private documents not shared with the public.

Thank you,

Ann & James Grozier

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]