

Dear Members of the Northumberland County Staff and Council,

I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed conversion of 310 Division St. in Cobourg into the new Transition House. As a dedicated employee at the [REDACTED] for over ten years, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of the existing Transition House on our community.

The Transition House's shift in its model of care to a low-barrier emergency shelter in 2019 has, unfortunately, resulted in a noticeable negative impact on the surrounding area. Daily occurrences of theft, vandalism, drug use, public urination, and trespassing on clinic properties have become distressingly common. Patients, out of fear for their safety, often call from their cars, requesting assistance to be walked into the clinic. The clinic staff have been subjected to intimidation and verbal assaults.

It is worth noting that during the temporary relocation of Transition House to CCI High School due to COVID, our neighborhood experienced virtually no disorderly behavior. I acknowledge that the responsibility for such conduct does not lie solely with the residents of Transition House but also extends to associates attracted to the area engaging in disruptive behavior.

In light of these challenges, I respectfully request that Northumberland County considers entering into a legally binding agreement, similar to the comprehensive agreement between Durham Region and the Town of Whitby. Such an agreement would outline all aspects of the expected shelter operation onsite and within the community, ensuring proper management of the facility and success for all parties involved.

I urge you to prioritize the safety of the residents in the neighboring homes, as well as the safety of the clinic's customers and staff, in your decision-making process. The creation of a well-defined agreement would contribute significantly to mitigating the issues we have experienced over the past few years.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will carefully consider the impact of the new Transition House on our community. Your thoughtful approach to the next steps is crucial for the well-being and safety of all involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Thorne

[REDACTED]

