SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

ITEM 10 OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JANUARY 17, 2023 REGARDING CITY OF WINNIPEG RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE (RHI) ROUND 3 FEDERAL FUNDING

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:53:44 AM

Personal information
Full name: David Grant
Email address:
Phone:
Job title:
Organization:
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Council
Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 10

Service inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom

Comments in writing: Winnipeg has a growing homelessness problem.
It will be getting worse as long as its root causes continue. In too many ways, city policies are behind the problem. With your focus only on the RHI, you are ignoring the other ways you could help.

1. One cause is the climbing cost of homes. As more people move to Winnipeg than new homes are created, many will be left out, as housing becomes unaffordable.
The city should relax the hurdles it puts in the way of those creating new housing. If the city were to work with developers on a plan to bring onstream many more rental units, low income folks would not be forced onto the street. End the war on developers. They are not your enemies. If you want rapid-housing, taking ownership of derelict homes, and making them livable, can house the homeless before any kind of new construction can.

2. When the city evaluates low cost rental homes, it should consider that demanding expensive fixes could drive the landlord into closing the unit or the building. I lived in a $48 a month unit in an old converted house. Every other resident was OK with the stuff that the landlord could not fix. Those who could afford to, moved out. I did when I could afford it. If that place, and every place like it, had been shut down, more than a dozen good people per building would have been on the street. Just because a place is too crappy for anyone here to want to call their home, it is better than a shelter or a bus shack. Please change your policies and the way they are enforced to save viable homes.

3. Drug policy. Those who speak for the city seem to want life-under-the-influence to be easier. Those living such lives tend to not fit conventional rental home living. If city policy were to move toward obliging those suffering the torments of addiction to be treated, the number suffering might be reduced. Making life easier for those living rough and living under the influence, tends to reduce the incentive each might otherwise have had to get 'clean'.
File: