



September 20, 2016

Dear Ward 3 Councillor Don Hamilton,

A couple weeks ago I hosted a roundtable on the issue of “safe” injection sites. The event brought together over 100 community leaders and residents. Markham residents told me about what concerns them most. They are compassionate people who care about helping those suffering with addiction.

The timing of this discussion could not have been more appropriate. This summer, injection sites have sprung up in Vancouver, Montreal and most importantly, in Toronto. The Health Minister’s plan would see more than 10 meth injection sites open across the country.

However, serious concerns about this harm reduction approach were raised. Markham residents fear these injection sites are normalizing illegal behaviour and creating an unsafe environment for children. They are worried these sites will decrease their property value. They question whether injection sites really help an addict recover. Furthermore, they are offended that the Liberal government is wasting taxpayer dollars on purchasing drugs and paraphernalia for addicts.

I heard their voice loud and clear and will continue to advocate for Markham-Unionville residents. That is why I am writing to you Councillor Hamilton.

Can you assure me and the residents of Markham-Unionville that you will oppose any proposal to bring an injection site to our community?

I eagerly await your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

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