

From: Dee G

Sent: March 8, 2026 3:02 PM

To: Clerks <clerks@durham.ca> chair <chair@durham.ca>; Sterling Lee; Shaun Collier

Cc: Marilyn Crawford; Joanne Dies; Nancy Henry; Lisa Bower; Rob Tyler Morin

Subject: Correspondence for Committee of the Whole – Report #2026-COW-16 (Harwood/Achilles – Ajax)

Good morning,

I am writing regarding Report #2026-COW-16, specifically the proposed supportive housing project at Harwood Avenue and Achilles Road in Ajax. Could the Clerk please include this email as March 2026 correspondence for the Committee of the Whole discussion on this item.

As an Ajax resident, I strongly support efforts that can meaningfully reduce homelessness in our community. Supportive housing that combines permanent housing with appropriate services can play an important role in helping individuals achieve long-term stability.

Before approving funding, it would also be helpful for Staff to clearly outline to Council and Residents the expected outcomes of this investment. In particular, what measurable indicators will be used to evaluate success over time, and how will Council assess whether supportive housing investments such as this are improving homelessness outcomes across Durham Region and within Ajax specifically. Approving projects of this scale without clearly defined outcomes and reporting expectations would make it difficult for both Council and the public to assess whether the intended objectives are being achieved. Trust me, many are increasingly speaking to this now.

The report also notes that the operating costs associated with these projects were **not included in the Region's existing 10-year Housing and Homelessness Service and Financing Strategy**, and that if provincial operating funding is not secured the costs could translate into an additional regional property tax impact of approximately 0.61%, excluding long-term capital maintenance and replacement costs.

Given the financial pressures already facing many households, I would encourage Council to consider that if senior government operating support does not materialize, **the responsible approach would be to offset these new costs by adjusting other planned Regional spending**, (de-prioritizing something else) so that the net impact on the overall Regional budget and property taxpayers remains neutral. Maintaining this type of fiscal discipline is important to ensure that important social investments can be made while also protecting long-term affordability for residents. Budgets need to mean something.

Finally, as this project moves forward in Ajax, it would be helpful to understand how the Region plans to engage with surrounding residents and businesses to ensure the development is well integrated into the community and that local perspectives continue to be heard. For context, Ajax represents roughly 17% of Durham Region's population but approximately 21% of the Region's unsheltered population, so residents will naturally be interested in understanding how initiatives such as this will contribute to improving conditions locally.

I am copying my Regional and Local Councillors in Ajax given how critical this matter is to our community.

Thank you

D Glass
Ajax