From: Peter Hasek  
Sent: August-22, 2013-13 12:23 AM  
To: Jason Farr & Brian McHattie  
Cc: Duvall, Scott; Ferguson, Lloyd; Peter Schafft; Jackson, Tom; Tom Cooper;  
Rob Howard; Paul Berton; Michael Ollier (HCLC); Doreen McPartlin (HCLC);  
Howard Elliott; Lindsay Beckham (HCLC); Bratina, Bob; Laura Catteri; Gallagher;  
Mary; Grozelle, Andy; Bediou, Ida; Mary Puntillo; Karen Langstaff; Morelli;  
Bernie; Merulla, Sam; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi; SGT. Geoffrey Burbidge;  
Stewart, William; Graham Cubitt; Murray, Chris; David Sweet; Trudy Morris;  
Andrea Horwath, MPP

Subject: Communications To Hamilton City Council

**Lets Be Realistic... What Will We Achieve?**

CityHousing Hamilton is about to embark on a brave and bold new program, *(some would say "experimental")* to dramatically reduce the amount of drug and other criminal activities that are allowed to operate, and are inadvertently enabled by staff, at CityHousing hi-rise buildings; including Hamilton's very-own version of Toronto's Jane and Finch area: 181 Jackson Street West and 95 Hess South.

Currently, we find ourselves working at cross-purposes. The law states clearly that addiction is a handicap: that addiction is a disability which prevents CityHousing Hamilton from evicting known addicts and drug dealers from their social housing units. In fact, CityHousing staff work to prevent the eviction of addicts and dealers, thereby increasing the concentration of addicts and dealers in CityHousing hi-rise buildings.

Let's assume that CityHousing staff have done their jobs and set-up a new safety and security regime that makes effective use of their new, $750,000 video surveillance system and supporting programs. This system and programs will not eliminate drug addiction which feeds criminal activities in our area. However, it will, create a new paradigm, a new realm, that will change the "drug and crime game" at 181 Jackson West, 95 Hess South and 155 Park Street.

The best we can hope-for is to change the way the addicts and dealers and gang members conduct their business within CityHousing property's. Everyone *(addicts and dealers alike)*, will become motivated to keep their business "under the RADAR," so to speak.

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Gone will be the days when violence is an effective enforcement tool to keep the addicts in-line. Instead, the more professional dealers will become more selective in who they sell to; using the addicts own cravings to enforce good business practices.

ie., **DEALERS talking to CityHousing Addicts**: "if you act like an (expletive deleted), if you don't pay your bills, if you don’t let us use your CityHousing apartment to sell drugs, we’re not going to sell any drugs to you...and we’ll follow you, wherever you go, and prevent anyone else from selling drugs to you..."

If I were an addict, that warning would scare me a lot more than the threat of a beating. And it is a smart business tactic for the dealers, too. Sure, business will drop-off; but, so will the risk of getting caught...and the hassle of dealing with non-compliant customers. Peace and order will be re-established.

This new balance, or equilibrium, will become the next, *ad hoc* generation of law enforcement tool; and a new way to keep the peace. No more violence. No more noise or calls to the police: just a choice; get help...and get off drugs... ...or....do EXACTLY what the dealers and gang members want you to do....

Crime, or drug-related crimes at least, will go almost completely under-ground. Most of us without addiction issues will be able to live relatively peaceful lives.

Some time in 2014, **CityHousing** and the **Crown** will start using video surveillance footage collected by the security contractor, as evidence in criminal trials. Defense attorneys will determine if **CityHousing** staff did their homework by subjecting this video surveillance evidence to a *Voir Dire* challenge in court. From that point forward, everyone will embark on a brand new learning curve.

**Peter Hasek**  
Vice Chair  
Safety & Security Task Force  
**CityHousing Hamilton**