

Dec. 4, 2024

Re: Welcoming Streets Proposal

Dear Chair Bradley and Regional Councilors,

I am writing today to give our support to the proposal that will be before Regional Council on the Welcoming Streets Pilot project. To begin with Reach, and Positive Living are well respected organizations that have done and continue to do important work with people who are experiencing homelessness, particularly those who may be street involved and have complex needs. That they are the proponent for this proposal speaks well to the work that has gone into it to ensure this is a sound program that will have positive results.

It is well known that to support people, particularly those who have been extremely marginalized, we must build rapport, meet them where they are and build connection. This proposal meets all those requirements. It is also known that the people who will be served by this project have traditionally had very poor experiences of discrimination, being dismissed and judged by systems that are supposed to help them.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity to make investments in a high needs neighbourhood that can make significant impact. I hope that you will endorse this project and provide the needed resources to make it happen.

Respectfully,



Elisabeth Zimmermann
Executive Director
YWCA Niagara Region