

About the Whalley Window

When homeless and low-income people rally, march and protest, you often hear the chant “Homes not Jails! Windows not Bars!” Windows symbolize homes – affordable, adequate, secure -- where we can ground our lives, feel safe, and engage in our communities. Windows also provide openings through which we see a world beyond the walls that surround us. They invite us to envision new possibilities of life together where needs are met and well-being flourishes, where the violent forces of the state that confine our bodies, minds and spirits are eliminated. Homes and healthcare, not cops and bylaw!

Stories As Resistance Word Search

R	P	Q	W	V	C	X	T	Q	N	C	F	C	L	O
F	H	L	I	F	E	B	P	O	I	Y	B	O	U	E
S	F	T	R	A	Q	O	I	L	P	G	V	R	D	R
T	R	A	E	H	W	L	T	D	D	E	T	I	E	R
R	X	P	Q	E	L	V	W	E	D	R	R	S	V	E
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G	U	E	B	D	A	J	H	J	I	C	L	D	R	S
L	R	D	J	I	D	H	P	E	E	O	Z	H	P	A
B	V	F	F	S	T	A	N	D	T	A	L	L	O	L
K	N	E	Y	E	C	C	H	O	L	W	N	H	E	S
E	D	M	H	R	E	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
K	S	Z	Z	A	Y	J	Y	R	T	E	O	P	S	N
T	S	E	I	R	O	T	S	A	Z	L	W	Q	G	W
O	U	V	M	G	F	M	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L

Find these words in the word search:

STORIES
REBELLION
LAUGHTER
LIFE

STANDTALL
STRONG
OURTRUTH
COMMUNITY

POETRY
RESILIENCE
POETS
VOICE

ART
REFUSAL
POWERFUL
HEART

THE WHALLEY WINDOW

HOMES NOT JAILS! WINDOWS NOT BARS!



“At the root, ... the basic nature of the police, since its earliest origins, is to be a tool for managing inequality and maintaining the status quo. ... Modern policing is largely a war on the poor that does little to make people safer or communities stronger.”
Alex Vitale, author of *The End of Policing*.



City of Surrey calls police and bylaw on the strip a “humanitarian” approach

By The Whalley Window Team

This summer Surrey City Councillor Tom Gill spoke with Surrey Now-Leader journalist Amy Reid about the situation on 135A Street. He said that the city has taken a “humanitarian” approach to the homeless crisis on the strip by providing an outreach team of police officers, bylaw officers and support workers to monitor people living there. He thinks shelters are the solution to homelessness and expects the new provincial government will provide resources for more shelter spaces.

Gill also feels that some people who live in tents on the strip are not co-operating with this “humanitarian approach.” He says “some people living on the street won’t take a home, even when it is offered to them.” According to Gill, “[t]here comes a time that being a little more forceful in terms of having mandatory engagement and expectations from the street folks...is what would be expected.” He calls this ‘tough love.’

In the article it becomes clear that Tom Gill’s priority is the business community and nearby property owners. He wants to make sure that there is a “balancing of ‘community deliverables’ from a business perspective but also for residents who live nearby.” He threatens to “up the game” for those who do not want to comply with going into shelters when they become available. He even goes “on record” to say he does not want the Strip in his backyard and that his “patience is wearing really thin” with the lack of progress in moving people off the strip.

“Humanitarian” approach? You’ve got to be joking!

By The Whalley Window Team

In George Orwell’s book Nineteen Eighty-Four, “doublespeak” referred to the way words were used to mask the truth; war is called “peace” and lies are designated “truth”. It seems that “doublespeak” has now seeped its way into Surrey municipal politics.

The RCMP’s routine practices of containment, coercion and surveillance and Bylaw’s normalized harassment and theft inflicted on homeless people living on the Strip are constructed as a “humanitarian approach” by acting mayor Tom Gill. His solution to the housing crisis visible on 135A (the province’s only outdoor shelter/prison run by cops) is not actual housing but permanent shelters, which are nothing more than homelessness under a roof.

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we are in deep trouble when
“outreach” means “enforcement”**

The regular rituals of dehumanization, such as forcing people to take down their tents each morning, pack up and move their belongings for the weekly theatrics of power-washing the street, and endure a myriad of daily orders and interrogations, are too “humanitarian” and not forceful enough for Gill; people living on the Strip should also be forced into inadequate shelters under a policy of “tough love”.

There is some truth that shines through Gill’s doublespeak, however; the City’s efforts to impose these oppressive measures on homeless people serves the interests of businesses and property owners in the area as Whalley undergoes full-scale gentrification.

As a society, we are in deep trouble when “outreach” means “enforcement”, dehumanizing practices of containment and control are called “humanitarian”, and obvious disdain and hatred is called “love.”

Next Issue!

If you have art to submit or a story to tell about policing, bylaw, or life on the Strip please call Dave at 778 708 5006 or e-mail us at thewhalleywindow@gmail.com

-The Whalley Window team (Teresa, Dave, Sarah, and Daniel)