



# GRACE PLACE

Where good things happen every day

GRACE PLACE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE  
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Canada

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**RECEIVED**  
**September 16, 2020**  
REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

REFERRAL TO **Human Services**

RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_

September 18, 2020

To: Members of Regional Council

cc: Councillor Rowena Santos and Councillor Paul Vicente  
Mayor Patrick Brown

On behalf of Grace Place Community Resource Centre (GPCRC) we are imploring your immediate action on the deplorable situation occurring on our doorstep and cannot in good conscience be ignored.

GPCRC is located at 156 Main Street North in Brampton and shares the location with both Grace United Church and Regeneration Outreach Community. GPCRC's main focus is acting as a community hub that provides meeting space for any and all community groups or individuals from support networks (such as AA) to private functions. We have over 20 different groups that meet on a weekly basis and offer time and space to occasional users ongoing throughout the year. We have various functions or meetings happening 7 days a week throughout both the daytime and evening hours.

We are not the only ones who recognize the overall escalation of mental health, addiction and homelessness in our community which has been amplified by the COVID Pandemic, but our specific situation has become dire and rather unique as it predates the current crisis. Our situation dates back well over a year ago and has now officially exhausted all of our available resources. In this situation it is important to remember that we are talking about human beings and their lives and dignities. No human being should be left to exist on the streets unable to maintain the most basic level of self-care and dignity but that is the truth of the situation – the human tragedy – of E.T.

E.T's story is a sad and desperate one that deserves a positive compassionate outcome. E.T. is known to suffer from a degenerative disease that over the past year has severely decreased his ability to maintain any level of self-care, this has caused a lot of frustration on his part and concern from anyone who sees him. E.T. frequently walks around in soiled clothing from his own excrement because he lacks the ability to control his bodily functions and now struggles to even pull up his pants. His deteriorating mobility issues means he continuously staggers and loses balance and is a major risk for a fall leading to serious injury. More importantly, once he is on the ground, he is almost unable to get himself up again. This is a serious concern as he chooses daily to lay and sleep in the parking and main entrance/delivery area at GPCRC.

The COVID Pandemic presented the new issue of the City of Brampton closing all facilities leaving the Regeneration Outreach Community at the location as the only available facility with showers, bathrooms and a food program. In the early days of March E.T. was brought to the location for showers. As time went on and the lockdown continued E.T. eventually stayed on the property turning the parking area into his makeshift 'home'. This has had an impact on everyone in the community and the consensus is that E.T. needs serious immediate intervention and care.

As the parking area is located right on Main street and visible to all passing traffic—both pedestrian and vehicles, his situation is on display for everyone to see. Community members, renters, contractors have all seen him lying in the parking area, sometimes immobilized and sometimes screaming for help or water. This causes them (as it would anyone) great distress and they either take their own actions or contact us about him. The truth is that GPCRC and the other organizations at this location are not care facilities and E.T. truly needs care with all basic functions. Most recently he has been seen struggling to even swallow food leading to him choking and vomiting.

The main entrance parking area is where he spends most of his time and his lack of control over bodily functions has been shared, there is the issue of public health that this had led to. The property has human urine, feces and vomit all over the place that people walk through to get into the building and track inside the building. The current climate promoting enhanced hygiene and sanitization practices is completely undermined by this situation and as GPCRC is gearing up to re-open to the public and resume the daily use of meeting spaces the safety and care of all community members is at risk. His occupancy of the area and refusal to move is impeding the efforts to keep the area clean and sanitary. This added to the safety risk of him lying in the parking lot, where he has already almost been hit by vehicle as he is not visible to drivers. He also lays in front of the doors at various times during the day and night blocking access not only on a functional standpoint but the risk involved if there needed to be an evacuation. There is an urgency with his situation for both his safety and the safety of everyone involved in the property.

Continuing with the community safety standpoint we come to one of the most distressing points of this issue, and that is that E.T. has become increasingly adversarial, confrontational and threatening to people that are familiar to him and are trying to help him. E.T.'s situation is so frustrating and one can only imagine how his inability to clean himself, avoid soiling himself, and even eat and drink himself, would fester inside of him and it only makes sense that he would be lashing out at people. The growing concern is that his behavior will continue to escalate and this presents two potentially devastating outcomes; the first being that E.T. will seriously injure someone (and likely one of the people who work with him almost daily) and the second, that injury resulting in E.T. being incarcerated. Prison is the last place E.T. needs to be, but with his deteriorating situation, lack of personal dignity and understandable increasing frustration it seems like a potential path. The important thing to note though is that if we can continue to band together to get him the help and assistance needed both of those options can likely be avoided.

In the past few weeks his growing frustrations have led to more frequent violent outbursts where he is kicking the front door of the building, yelling for people to let him in or get him water, he uses profanities often directed right at staff members. He has even threatened to harm a staff member and chased her from the property resulting in a call to 911 for immediate assistance. We are responsible to provide a safe working environment for all of our staff members and this current situation is preventing that. Peel Police and Peel Paramedics have responded to the location numerous times for assistance. We have more than exhausted all resources available and immediately need a viable long-term solution for E.T. and we are looking to the Region of Peel as the provider of health, social services and long-term care to take over.

In summary, this situation has become untenable for E.T., GPCRC and the community at large. E.T.'s situation is deteriorating rapidly and needs immediate action. The community health and safety standards cannot withstand these conditions especially in this unprecedented time where the emphasis on having strong hygiene and sanitization protocols is imperative and being hindered as a result of E.T.'s unfortunate situation. The time to act is now, and the actions must be swift, strong and supportive.

Grace Place Community Resource Centre

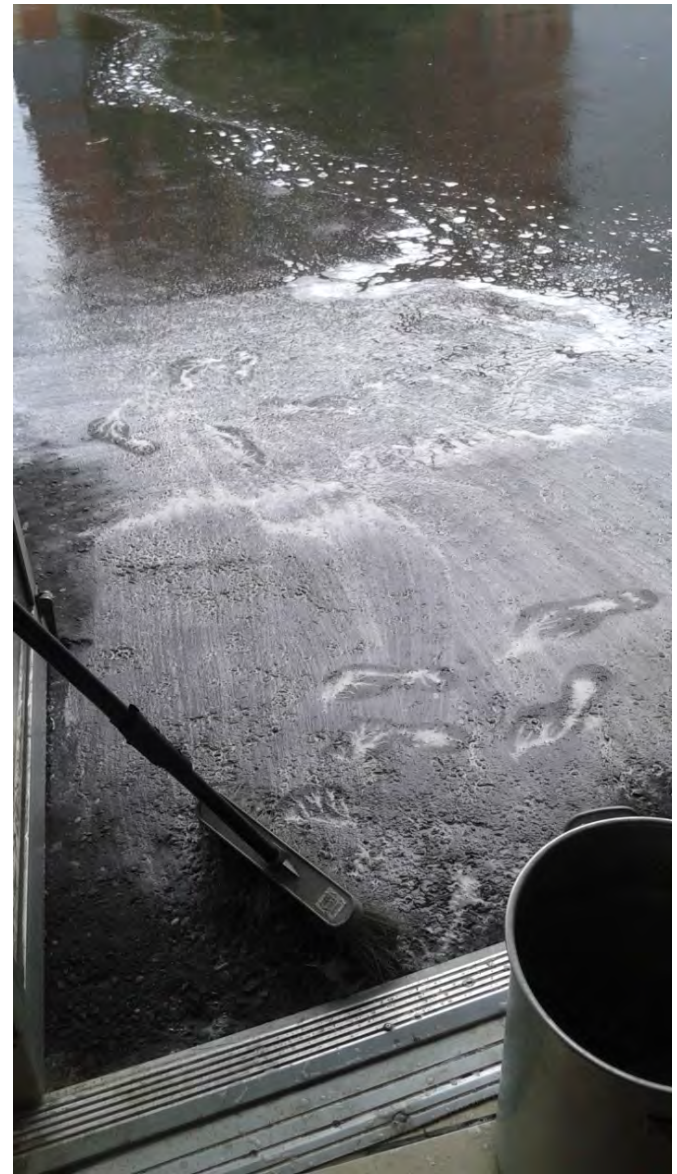


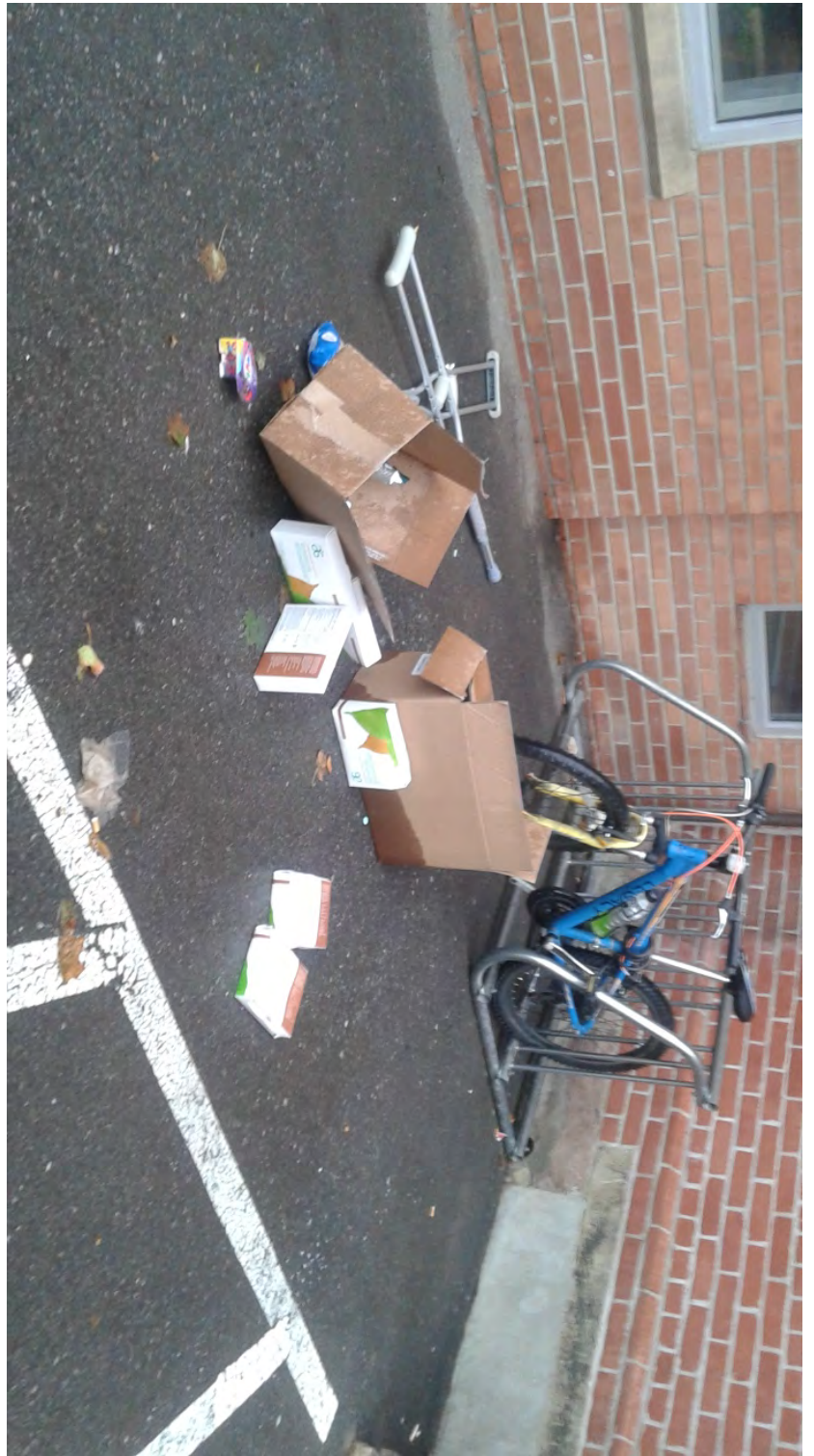
D. Cameron Welsh  
Board Chair



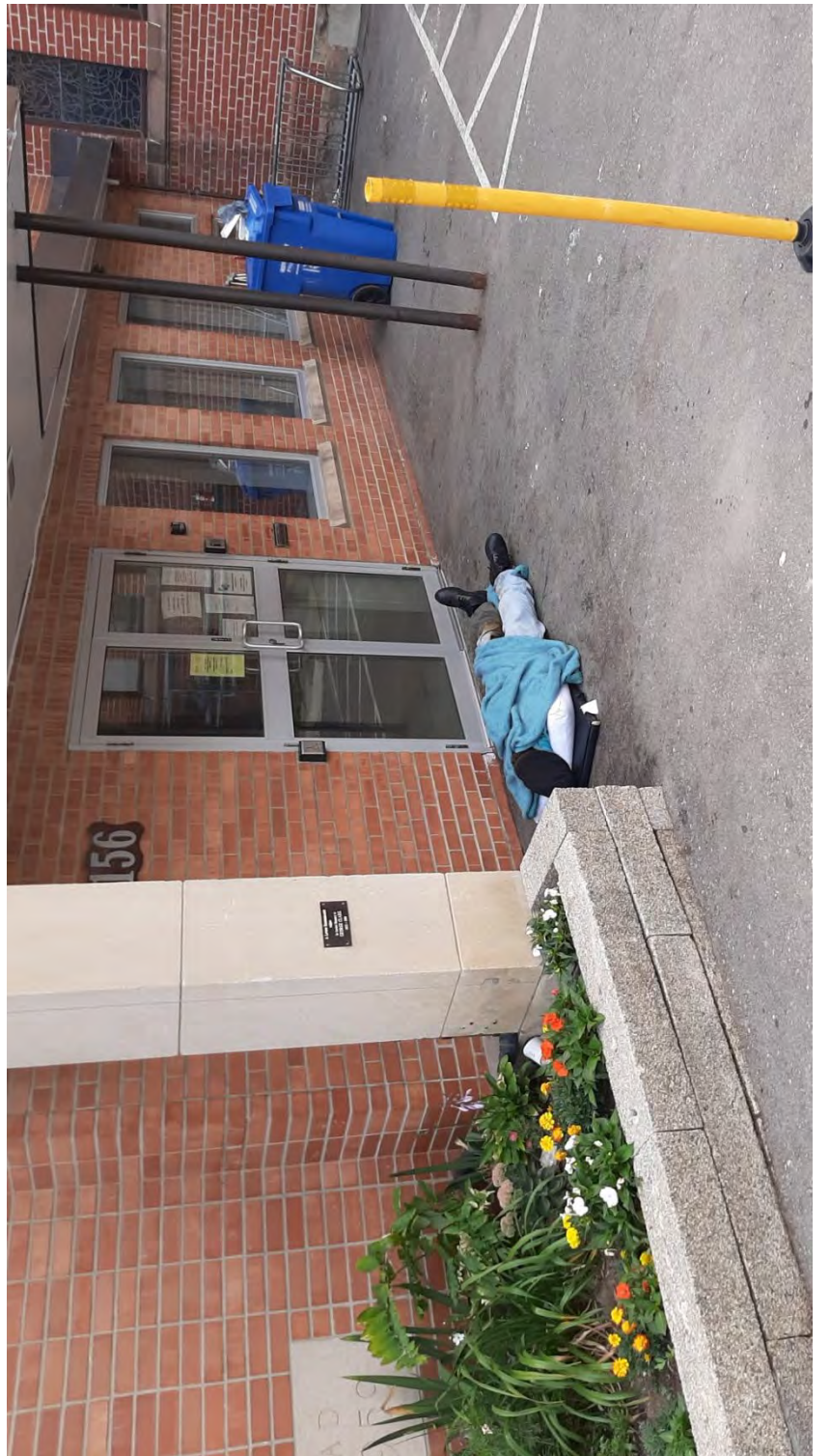
Deb Bergamin  
General Manager (A)

(Reference photos included).





16.1-5















16.1-11

