

25 October 2023

RE: 817 Rosser Ave Land Use Application

I am writing in support of the application for the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations request for the land use to be similar to a community centre at 817 Rosser Ave.

The Blue Door Project and the Ask Auntie Program are vital resources to our most vulnerable populations in Brandon. Having the current drop-in space available has made a positive impact not just for a safe space out of the elements, but a place for people to connect with an “Auntie” to help with various supports, getting essential ID, grabbing a coffee and a snack, and most importantly finding a sense of community.

This new space is larger and will allow for even more positive interactions and be able to serve more clients. The funding from the Province to support overnight drop-in service is critical and a big gap we currently face in Brandon. With only one overnight emergency shelter for sleeping only, many are left out in the cold who are not in a position to sleep or do not want to be in the shelter for various reasons. It is very important that the Blue Door receive the land use variance to allow for the overnight drop-in space to be open.

The Blue Door is making strides in helping those experiencing homelessness particularly the Indigenous population and I fully support the move to a newer location. In addition to this, one of the City’s priorities has been to find a solution to 24-7 safe and secure access to washrooms and this will be able to fill that gap for the vulnerable and houseless population.

In my own discussions with the BNRC I know they will make efforts to keep the disruption on Rosser Ave to a minimum and plan to use the back fenced in area for clients to avoid loitering in front.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Saltarelli*