

To: members of the Executive Committee, April 30

Re: Proposed housing project at 194 Dowling Ave.

The Homelessness Action Group asks members of the Executive Committee to support the recommendation of the Affordable Housing Committee to approve the supportive housing project at 194 Dowling Ave. which will house 29 people with a history of mental illness.

We ask you to consider that:

While some neighbours say that there is already more than enough affordable and supportive housing in the area, the people who will be housed by this development are mostly already in the neighbourhood. So there will not be an influx of low-income and high-needs residents.

Many people with mental illness are living in nearby rooming houses that have a bad reputation for building conditions and the treatment of residents. Residents in the new housing will live in a safe and secure situation with supports, an improvement both for them and for the neighbourhood.

PARC has a good reputation for management of its drop-in, and its services, supports and activities for low-income and marginalized people in the community. Adequate supportive services will be provided assuming sufficient City funding flows.

It is an advantage that PARC is located next door so that it can respond quickly to any community concerns.

Some residents have complained of a lack of community consultation but the proponent has held community meetings and received many letters of support. PARC promises open houses and on-going communication with neighbours.

Members of the Affordable Housing Committee have assured residents that they will ensure that local rooming house landlords are more closely held accountable for standards.

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