



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

April 10, 2014

To: Community Development & Recreation Committee

Re: City Support for the Red Door Shelter

Dear Chair & Members,

The Red Door Shelter has been providing support to families in need of emergency shelter for over 30 years. Due to a real estate deal gone wrong the shelter is now in danger of losing its home. The property has been put into receivership with a mandate to be sold, with no provisions in place to guarantee the shelter is maintained within any new development.

Family shelters provide critical services to women and children fleeing abuse, to refugees in need of assistance, and to families fallen on hard times. The Red Door Shelter is very important to the City of Toronto's family shelter network, and its 106 beds are much needed. Deputy City Manager Brenda Patterson has been very helpful in working with the shelter to provide assistance in trying to resolve this issue, and the City has shown great commitment to this stellar service provider in our community.

On April 7th, over 300 residents gathered at an emergency meeting in support of the Red Door Shelter, voicing full support for keeping the shelter in its home. Many communities fight against shelters in their neighbourhoods, and I am so proud of my community for rallying to keep the shelter in their backyard. Everyone feels the Red Door is an important part of our community and over 16,000 people have signed a petition in support of the shelter.

Former Mayor David Crombie attended the emergency meeting and heard from residents how important this shelter is to them. Mr. Crombie has volunteered his services to work with all parties to come to a positive resolution that keeps the shelter at this site.

The community asked me to express their strong desire for City to continue to assist the Red Door in any way possible, including with financial assistance.

Therefore, I respectfully request:

- 1) City Council support the Red Door Shelter in its efforts should it seek to establish its new home within any development of the property; relocate to a new property on Queen Street East; or undertake to establish a title claim to the property
- 2) The City Manager and Deputy City Managers explore all mechanisms, including financial options, which can be used to maintain the continuity of the services provided by the Red Door Shelter on Queen Street East
- 3) Assist the Red Door Shelter in finding a temporary location should the redevelopment include the shelter at 875 Queen Street East

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth



City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, Suite C44, Toronto, ON., M5H 2N2

Telephone: (416) 392-4060 Fax: (416) 397-5200 email: councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca