

To: Respected members of the Toronto Board of Health
(Raymond Cho, Sarah Doucette, Abdul Fattah, John Fillion, Pamela Gough, Monte Harris, Joe Mihevc, Gord Perks, Suman Roy, Jennifer Sarjeant, Rumina Velsi, Kristyn Wong-Tam)

CC: Councillor Jim Karygiannis, Ward 39

From: Kenneth Plummer
Vice-President, Bamburgh Manor Condominium
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Re: TTC McNicoll Bus Garage

November 3, 2014

Within the last two decades, a number of long-term care facilities and nursing homes have sprung up along a 2 km stretch of McNicoll Ave., the newest being Carefirst Seniors Services, which will open in 2015. My own building, built in 1999, has 700 seniors, many of whom receive geriatric care. This dense community has developed into Canada's most prominent Asian seniors community, with a population of 12,000, and geriatric health services such as doctors, physiotherapists and pharmacies supporting this population.

There are also two infant day care facilities within this 2 km stretch.

Right in the middle of this 2 km stretch, and right next to an Asian long-term care facility, is proposed a massive industrial garage for 250 buses. When my Board expressed concern about such a large scale emission of carcinogenic diesel in January 2014, TTC's CEO Andy Byford wrote that the new buses will use "clean green biodiesel", and not regular diesel. What exactly is "biodiesel"? When my Board pressed for specific details, the TTC admitted in writing that the fuel will be regular diesel, and in fact, **the same fuel which the World Health Organization declared to be a dangerous carcinogen.** Again and again, the TTC's rosy propaganda about this garage has been proven untrue, and an alarming list of hidden health hazards and catastrophic dangers has been uncovered.

The seniors in our community do not speak English, and survive barely on their meager retirement incomes. **They are weak, voiceless, completely vulnerable and unable to fend for themselves.** Is it for this reason that the TTC finds this location so appealing?

I ask the Board of Health to examine the true facts about the garage. In addition to dangerous pollution and industrial noise 24/7, the garage will store 180,000 litres of highly-combustible fuel in above-ground tanks. These explosive tanks are located right next to rail tracks which cross McNicoll Ave., where the new super-long TTC buses can easily become trapped by the traffic congestion, creating an extremely dangerous presence in a community where thousands of geriatric patients are unable to evacuate during a catastrophe.

The TTC bus garage poses many dangers to a hospital community such as ours, where weak and helpless seniors seek refuge so that they can live peacefully and with dignity in their final chapter of life.



Kenneth Plummer

Vice-President of Bamburgh Manor Condominium

On behalf of all residents and health care workers affected by the TTC McNicoll Bus Garage