

May 27, 2020

Sent via email - councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

We are writing to support the recommendations and action plan contained in the staff report for Item CC21.3 – *Creating New Affordable Housing Opportunities through the Housing Now Initiative* - before you tomorrow.

As you are all no doubt aware, our position is that only housing will end homelessness. We have deputed and written over the last years to support, and highlight areas for further action, initiatives that build Toronto's capacity to safely and appropriately house all of its residents. We commend City Council for approving the 250 new modular housing units at last month's meeting for example. This is a great start to building even more, and one key tool in how City Council will achieve the vision enshrined in Toronto's Housing Charter of a city where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

The additional sites as recommended in this report for the Housing Now Initiative, along with improved opportunities for non-profit development, is another step forward and deserves Council's full support. Important elements, some of which already respond to previous community-driven advice developed by the TAEH, include:

- A more robust project management framework, owned by the Housing Secretariat and crossing all relevant city divisions, departments and agencies
- Stronger commitment to maximizing deeply affordable and supportive housing in Phase 2, including providing greater consideration to submissions that increase supportive housing opportunities
- Expedited processes and improved access for non-profit, mission-driven housing, including:
  - Designating a minimum of 2 sites exclusively for non-profit developments
  - Housing Secretariat administration of non-profit process
  - The commitment to begin the non-profit capacity building component of Housing Now

All the above is even more relevant and urgent as we plan for the recovery and rebuilding stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many TAEHers attended last month's Council meeting, and were encouraged by your unanimous articulation of what COVID-19 is teaching us, and the responsibility of City Council to apply those lessons moving forward.

Phase 2 of Housing Now is part of this. It will increase Toronto's ability to prevent and end homelessness for more people. The TAEH will continue to work with you, city staff and our community partners to maximize these opportunities as well as others.

Sincerely,

Kira Heineck, Executive Lead

**Committed to Ending Homelessness**

[www.taeh.ca](http://www.taeh.ca)

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