



# MARY FRAGEDAKIS

City Councillor, Ward 29

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SECRETARIAT SECTION

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May 20, 2011

EX 6.5.4

Mayor and Councillors,  
Executive Committee  
c/o Frances Pritchard, Manager

Dear Mayor and Members of the Executive Committee:

Re: EX 6.5 – Sale of 22 Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) Houses

In making recommendations on the sale of the 22 Single Family TCHC houses, I would like you to consider some important aspects of building healthy and sustainable communities.

An important building block in fostering healthy and sustainable communities is good homes. Public housing is essential for providing these good homes for some families in our community. Though there are various forms of assistance for impoverished populations in Toronto, public housing is one of the most important. A variety of social housing programs have been developed to meet various needs. The population of public housing is diverse and may consist of senior citizens, low-income families and students attending a college or university. Public housing provides a home for many of the families that have no other options.

Public housing generates a wide range of tangible economic benefits within local communities, in addition to its role as an affordable housing provider. Public housing is an investment in creating healthy and sustainable communities. It should be noted that many of the 22 houses in question were purchased at reasonable rates years ago. Yet, now, many of those houses have been assessed at a very high value because they are in very successful communities. This observation supports the notion that the healthiest neighbourhoods are those of mixed income.

The St. Lawrence neighbourhood exemplifies this notion. It is a mixed income neighbourhood that has gained a global reputation as one of the best planned neighbourhoods in North America. It is the model TCHC is using to redevelop and revitalize Regent Park. However, the removal of rental units within neighbourhoods undermines this diversity and leads to the polarization of our communities.

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Along with my concerns for the people who live in these homes and how this will affect their lives, I am also concerned about how this will impact local neighbourhoods. In my ward, there are 3 adjacent properties on Ellerbeck included in the portfolio to be sold off. The possibility for overdevelopment of this land and the resulting negative repercussions for the community are of great concern. When one considers other properties to be sold off in this plan, especially those on Hubbard and Wineva, there is a pattern of setting up for blockbusting. The properties on Crawford similarly fall into this situation. I believe this plan could destabilize many healthy neighbourhoods across the City of Toronto.

Therefore, I would ask that you proceed with extreme caution and consider all of the long term implications of this plan.

Sincerely,

Mary Fragedakis  
City Councillor  
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth