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March 6, 2013
David Beasley

PRESENTATION TO PGM COMMITTEE, CITY OF TORONTO -MARCH 6, 2013

CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE MY NAME IS DAVID BEASLEY

I'M SPEAKING FOR THE MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS WORKING TO PUT THE PRESSING ISSUE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BACK ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA.

COUNCIL'S ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO FULLY CONSOLIDATE THE SEVERAL ZONING BY-LAWS INTO A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE AND UPDATED DOCUMENT. THIS WOULD INCLUDE EXTENDING THE PERMISSION FOR ROOMING HOUSES TO THE ~~THREE~~ FORMER MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED.

BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE. THE MATTER HAS BEEN DEFERRED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS APPARENTLY DUE TO ITS COMPLEXITY, DRAIN ON STAFF RESOURCES, AND CONCERN THAT IT WOULD UPSET THE TIMELINE FOR APPROVING THE BALANCE OF THE REVISION.

MFATEH DOES NOT SEEK TO HAVE THE PRESENT REVISION DEFERRED UNTIL THE ROOMING HOUSE ISSUE IS RESOLVED - RATHER, WE ARE ASKING THE COMMITTEE TO RENEW ITS COMMITMENT TO LOOK AT THE ISSUE AS SOON AS IT HAS DEALT WITH THE PRESENT REVISION.

THIS IS MORE PRESSING THAN YOU PERHAPS REALIZE. THE 2011 CENSUS FOUND THAT SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS IN TORONTO HAD REACHED 1/3 MILLION !! THAT'S MORE THAN COUPLES WITH CHILDREN ! SPH'S HAVE INCREASED BY 12% SINCE THE PREVIOUS CENSUS IN 2006.

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO INTERESTING RECENT STUDIES OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION THRU-OUT THE CITY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, 'POVERTY BY POSTAL CODE' (UNITED WAY-2004) AND 'THE THREE CITIES WITHIN TORONTO' (U of T 2007/2009). BOTH HAVE COME TO SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS. MAPS FROM THE LATTER REPORT CLEARLY SHOW THE GROWTH OF LOWER INCOME NEIGHBOURHOODS ACROSS TORONTO.

1970-"MIDDLE INCOME EARNERS LIVE MOSTLY IN THE SUBURBS, LEAVING OLDER DOWNTOWN AREAS TO THE LOWER INCOME EARNERS AND UP-TOWN TO THE WELL-TO-DO"

2000-"MIDDLE AND HIGH INCOME HOUSEHOLDS MOVE INTO THE REVITALIZED DOWNTOWN AREAS"

2005-"NE AND NW-THE FORMER MIDDLE INCOME STRONGHOLDS-ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY LOWER INCOME"

MFATEH ASKS THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT PLANNING STAFF BE INSTRUCTED TO REPORT ON THE EXTENSION OF ROOMING HOUSE PERMISSION TO THE REMAINING ~~THREE~~ FORMER MUNICIPALITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO HAVE STAFF INVESTIGATE REGULARIZING THE LICENSING AND INSPECTION OF ROOMING HOUSES ACROSS THE CITY. (IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF MLS, LAW, PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFFICE WILL BE IMPORTANT IN THIS PROCESS, AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.)

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