



Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
Centre ontarien de défense des droits des locataires

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October 21, 2013

Planning and Growth Management Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee members,

Re: Draft City-Wide Zoning By-law (Agenda Item PG27.6 for October 22 meeting)

ACTO is a community legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario, with a province-wide mandate. We work for the advancement of human rights and social justice in housing for low-income Ontarians.

ACTO has consistently advocated for the removal of the minimum separation distances pertaining to group homes and residential care home in the new City-Wide Zoning By-law. This requirement was not based on credible planning evidence and adds significantly to the difficulties in creating and maintaining shared, supervised homes for people with disabilities.

ACTO supports the recommendations made by the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to amend the definition of 'group home' to eliminate the minimum number of three persons, and the elimination of the 250 metre separation distance requirement for group home and residential care homes. Furthermore, we concur with the expert's findings that: "there is no planning evidence that exists in support of the need for a 250 metre separation distance between group homes"; and there is no evidence showing that group homes generated negative externalities.

As you are aware, the regulations for group homes and residential care homes have been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and raise issues related to human rights concerns. If these amendments are passed by Committee, it would resolve one of the issues being appealed at the OMB.

Yours very truly,
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
per:

Kenneth Hale
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services