

TE 30.10.2

Marilyn Toft - My comments for 2014.TE30.10 on March 20, 2014 City Council

From: "Sheila Braidek" <SheilaB@regentparkchc.org>
To: <clerk@toronto.ca>
Date: 03/19/2014 9:59 AM
Subject: My comments for 2014.TE30.10 on March 20, 2014 City Council

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 SECRETARIAT 12 W
 2014 MAR 19 AM 10 33

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 20, 2014 City Council meeting on item 2014.TE30.10, Final Report - 325 Gerrard Street East - Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Amendment, Residential Demolition Control Applications (Phases 3-5)

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Regent Park Community Health Centre would like to express our concerns related to *Final Report - 325 Gerrard Street East - Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Amendment, Residential Demolition Control Applications* (aka Regent Park redevelopment). Our concerns are essentially two-fold. First, that there has been inadequate consideration of the experience of local residents living through the redevelopment; and second, that there has been inadequate investment in the social redevelopment of Regent Park.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Councillor McConnell, local community members and others in advancing the physical redevelopment of Regent Park. Without a doubt the housing stock and infrastructure needed revitalization and we are pleased to see this moving forward.

The Regent Park Community Health Centre has been working in the Regent Park and area community for 40 years. We are a community-governed, interdisciplinary primary health care organization that works from a framework that understands

- Systemic barriers to health services face certain populations and contribute to health inequities
- Health is a resource for daily living and many factors such as social isolation, the environment, education, housing, income, and others impact our health;
- There is dynamic connection between individual and community health;
- People impacted by an issue should be engaged in addressing the issue.

We all know that moving is one of life's most stressful experiences. For many of us the stress of that situation is mitigated by our ability to choose when and where we are moving to, to purchase support or other resources to enable the move, and to maintain many if not all of our social support systems through and beyond the move. For most residents living in Regent Park, their ability to mitigate the stress of a move is severely limited by their limited financial and/or social supports. For many, their social support networks are their neighbours. The stress of a move compounded by the undermining of social support networks can and does contribute to poorer health and wellbeing.

At Regent Park CHC we almost daily hear stories from residents who are confused about redevelopment, frustrated by their inability to get timely information, frustrated by the challenge of trying to push a landlord on whom their housing is dependent, of being moved well out of their own neighbourhood to accommodate construction when others are allowed to move into the area in spite of commitments to minimize disruption, of not feeling that they have a meaningful voice in what is happening in their community to them.

We appreciate that Toronto Community Housing has made commitments and is working hard to provide information and be responsive to community needs. We note however that these efforts are limited in part by financial constraints and/or process constraints. Some of these constraints could be mitigated through improved process and some would require additional financial investments. We believe investments of this nature are essential and necessary. The burden of redevelopment is being disproportionately borne by the long term residents of Regent Park and the weight of this burden is not fair or healthy.

As you know the built-form redevelopment was to be accompanied by social redevelopment, with both grounded in principles of community engagement. While there has been substantial investment in the built-form, there has been almost no new investment in supporting social development including community engagement. What investments have been forthcoming have been heavily influenced by non-community-based stakeholders to the process.

At this date, there is no tenant or resident voice directly represented at the Social Development Plan Stakeholders Table. And there is no central table or process where residents or local agencies working closely with residents can meaningfully contribute to the longer-term built-form or social redevelopment planning. Regent Park CHC is deeply concerned that the 'social' redevelopment of Regent Park is forgetting about the 'social'.

I would encourage councillors to endorse the recommendation to Council on Item TE 30.10 and I would encourage Council to invite Council to investigate ways to support greater resident and community engagement in the redevelopment process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sheila Braidek, Executive Director
Regent Park Community Health Centre
Ph 416-364-2261

Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message. Avis de confidentialite :Les informations contenues a l'interieur de ce courriel, y compris tous les documents qui y sont attaches, sont pour l'usage exclusif du/des destinataire(s) designes ; car elles peuvent etre de nature confidentielle et privilegiee. N'importe quelles revue, utilisation, divulgation ou distribution non autorisee est interdite. Si vous n'etes pas le ou les destinataire(s) designes, veuillez immediatement en aviser l'expediteur par courriel et assurer vous d'avoir detruit toutes les copies du message original.