

LISA S. L. CHAN, Ph.D., BC-MT

August 6, 2014

Planning and Growth Management Committee
Toronto City Council

Dear Mr. Ainslie, Mr. Colle, Mr. Filion, Ms. Nunziata, Mr. Parker and Ms. Stintz,

RE: PG 35.23 McNicoll Bus Garage Transit Project Assessment Study (Ward 39)

I am the daughter and power of attorney of a resident at the Mon Sheong Long-term Care Centre immediately adjacent to the proposed bus garage. I am also a member of the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church where the proposed bus garage is in very close proximity.

You are our chosen leaders and you make decisions that affect our lives. It is my duty and responsibility to let you know what reality the people in the community have to face.

Heavy duty vehicles, industrial waste, thirty one million seconds yearly of unending noise, unending carcinogenic air, one hundred eighty thousand litres of above ground fuel adjacent to rail tracks and a predominately seniors' community is a horrifying combination.

This is a sensitive area. Many seniors live here, many seniors come here for community services and park activities, and children attend school just across the street from the proposed bus garage.

This neighbourhood has grown into a community of mature seniors and families with a nursing home, seniors' residences, family condos, a large church, a school, community centre, and a seniors' service centre. The city has allowed them to come, live, and settle in the community before TTC occupied the land for the proposed bus garage.

I remember vividly how a senior resident in the community exclaimed, " This is a BIG mistake! Incompatible! Why put a Bus Garage in a residential community of seniors and families? It is common sense. Like a zoo, when you put cows here and sheep there, you just don't put a tiger in the middle! THIS IS A BIG MISTAKE !!!"

TTC can beautify the garage and TTC can comply with the most stringent government standards. However, even with the most sincerest of intentions and diligent efforts, no one can stop a tiger from being a tiger. No one can take away its nature. A tiger will not be controlled!

No one, from the very young to the very old, from the most healthy to the very sick, deserves to live in constant fear for their health and lives because TTC is entitled to put a

garage, a ticking time bomb, at their doorstep, in their backyard 24/7 with No ESCAPE. These are not irrational fears. They are research and reality based.

No amount of money and no jail terms can compensate for a life lost or hurt when the TIGER IS NOT UNDER CONTROL. Not even a fatally ill person and person at the very last chapter of his/her life deserves to have his/her life harmed or ended by human mistakes. Life and health are priceless. No benefits to the community that TTC claim to bring can remotely compare with the precious gift of life and health.

TTC can move. TTC has a choice. TTC has the financial means and human resources. TTC staff can break away from unending noise and pollution. TTC has not yet attached emotionally and socially to this area. For 9 years, TTC has ignored the fact that the community has aged even more so and has done nothing to explore for a responsible, compatible alternate site.

TTC has an option, but these many senior residents, particularly the frail, the old, the immobile, and the sick have no choice. Absolutely none! By what means? Where to?

What is legal is not always right. What is legal is not always ethical.

No new bus garages should be planted in a residential community, not to say in a seniors' community, and never adjacent to a nursing home. This is not a "Not in my Backyard" scenario. This is incompatible land use and a historical problem needing to be rectified.

The proposed McNicoll bus garage runs in contrary to the City's embraced TORONTO SENIORS STRATEGY which meant to "prevent and discourage ageism and enhance respect for older persons ..." and that "older adults in Toronto should be supported so that they may enjoy a higher level of health and wellbeing."

As Nelson Mandela had said "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." And as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had said "The time is always right to do what is right."

We plead that you exercise your political will to help build a community that upholds humanity and lives out the Toronto Seniors Strategy.

We strongly urge the Planning and Growth Management Committee not to approve building the bus garage at the McNicoll location. We sincerely urge that the Committee move a motion for TTC to review all other alternative locations and a motion for TTC to conduct a full Environmental Assessment Study. Thank you for hearing the seniors' pleads.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chan, Ph.D., BC-MT