

TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance

Making Equality Matter.

April 10, 2015

Members,
 Planning and Growth Management Committee
 City of Toronto
 City Hall, 100 Queen St. W
 Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Members,

Toronto Women's City Alliance (TWCA) would like to submit the following comments regarding the proposed policy changes to Sections 2.3.1, Healthy Neighbourhoods, 3.2.1, Housing, and 4.1, Neighbourhoods

Sections 2.3.1 Healthy Neighborhoods

We strongly support the policies to refurbish and improve apartment neighbourhoods. We recognize that staff commented comprehensively and positively on the human aspects of neighbourhoods, yet, the proposed policies are totally dehumanized. The essence of a neighbourhood is a place of safety and support for all people who live there, including women, transpeople, youth, seniors and other marginalized groups. The neighbourhood is where families raise their children, make a living, care for each other and grow older. Aging in place – i.e. in your neighbourhood - is promoted as the best approach to our changing demographics. Both Neighbourhoods and Apartment Neighbourhoods need to meet these values to ensure harmonious diversity, a full range of commercial and social services, and to avoid ghettoization into rich and poor neighbourhoods. These underlying values need to be reflected in the policies.

We are therefore proposing to insert at the beginning of policy 2.3.1. 1 Neighbourhoods and Apartment Neighbourhoods are primary communities that are planned to support Toronto's diverse households with safe and appropriate housing, services, roads and environments, thus enabling residents to raise and care for children and dependents, make a living, as well as transition from one phase in life to another.

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Toronto Women's City Alliance

c/o North York Women's Centre, 2446 Dufferin St., Toronto, ON M63 3T1
 www.twca.ca | info@twca.ca | 647-235-8575



Section 3.2.1, Housing

Toronto's relentlessly rising housing costs make shelter unaffordable for more and more households. The growth of the waiting list for social housing to almost 100 000 is proof of this crisis. It affects especially single parent, immigrant or otherwise marginalized women-led households, who have to make do with substantially lower incomes than men- led or 2 income households. Toronto needs strong policies to address this crisis. Encouraging and counting on legislative changes at the provincial level, and as the only way for Toronto to comply with the Provincial Housing Policy Statement, TWCA proposes the following policies:

Amend Policy 3.2.1.9 (large sites) to read:

In developments of 20 (reflecting pending legislation on inclusionary zoning) or more units, 25% of the proposed residential units shall be affordable rental or homeownership housing; "affordable" shall mean not exceeding 30% of moderate and low household incomes respectively.

New Policy: 3.2.1.10

No discriminatory and restrictive criteria shall be applied to the location of supportive and shelter housing.

Section 4.1, Neighbourhoods

Concerns for safety, while shared with all vulnerable groups such as children, youth, persons with disabilities, elderly or members of visible minorities, especially affect women and transpeople. Women and transpeople suffer sexual assault and harassment far more than men, resulting in unequal access to the city. This reality needs to be addressed in urban design as well as neighbourhood policies. We therefore propose the following

additional subsection to 4.1.5 (development in neighbourhoods)

i) safety guidelines established in the Safer City Guidelines, or an updated version thereof.

Please let us know, should you wish to discuss these concerns further.

Yours truly,



Reggie Modlich, on behalf of the
TWCA Planning Team