



# CD13.1.51

## LAURA ALBANESE, MPP York South-Weston

June 20th, 2016.

Community Development and Recreation Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

### **RE: Item CD13. 1 Proposal for Emergency Men's Shelter at 731 Runnymede Road**

Dear Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee,

I have learned about a proposed 24-hour emergency 100-bed temporary housing shelter for homeless males that the City of Toronto is considering locating at 731 Runnymede Road in the southern part of York South-Weston, the riding I have the privilege to represent.

I fully support the need for vulnerable people to have a roof over their heads and recognize the role that shelters play to accomplish this throughout the City. It is important, however, to have the appropriate level of social services in close proximity to the proposed location of the shelter. While a shelter is a way to get the homeless off of the street, it is the social services available to the shelter users that will help them keep off the street and transition them into more permanent housing. The social services that should be provided nearby include, for example: health services, mental health supports, clothing banks, walk-in programs, employment assistance, I.D. Services, etc. Most of these services are not located in the vicinity of the proposed shelter site at 731 Runnymede Road.

Another serious concern I have along with my community is the size of the 24-hour emergency 100-bed temporary housing shelter in this City of Toronto designated Neighbourhood Improvement Area. As previously mentioned, there are insufficient social and recreational services in the area, for the people that would be temporarily housed there. There is also inadequate public transit in the neighbourhood, especially going eastbound on St. Clair Ave. West, as there is a gap in service for one kilometre where the streetcar loop then begins. I



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support the quite reasonable and understandable concerns that many residents have shared with me, including the concerns of the local Councillor, Ms. Frances Nunziata.

This community is one of 31 neighbourhoods that have already been identified by the City of Toronto as being in need due to the high proportion of poverty and lack of services. This neighbourhood is also surrounded by several other Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. Adding an influx of 100 more people to this area would be irresponsible due to the already high concentration of residents with lower socio-economic status and the lack of services. Once Seaton House closes, this shelter would be the 3rd largest in the City of Toronto. It would be a disservice to house marginalized people in need of basic shelter without also ensuring sufficient health services and other necessary supports. What is needed, in my humble opinion, is a wider dispersion of temporary/permanent across the City to both the benefit the vulnerable population we are trying to serve and the communities in which they would reside.

I am confident that a solution can be found that will have a positive impact both on the people that find themselves experiencing homelessness and for the residents of the community.

Sincerely,

Laura Albanese  
M.P.P. York-South Weston