



Red Door Family Shelter
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Charitable Registration 11930 3287 RR0001

January 13, 2016

Toronto and East York Community Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

To: Members of Toronto/East York Community Council:

Regarding the request to Amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Application No. 15118233 STE 30 OZ: 875 and 887 Queen Street East, Toronto

We, the Board of Directors of The Red Door Family Shelter, would like to express our strong and enthusiastic support for this Application.

The Red Door Family Shelter Board of Directors has had the opportunity to review the plans for the new shelter building to be incorporated into the new mixed use residential building at 875 and 887 Queen Street East.

We are fully supportive of the partnership between the City of Toronto and the applicant to construct the new purpose built shelter at this location and the City to provide a long term lease to the Red Door Family Shelter where we can provide much needed support and services to homeless families and their children.

The Red Door Shelter's current building was never designed to accommodate and serve over 100 people a day. Our clients lack privacy. Different families are required to share the same bedrooms. There is insufficient space for our support programs. Our clients are often unable to draw support from each other as a community. In short, the building is institutional, dilapidated, insecure and over capacity and the existing situation is unsustainable. The new facility to be constructed as a result of the planning application before you provides a positive and long-term future for both the Red Door Shelter and the families we serve.

In 2015 The Red Door Family Shelter served over 603 families and 55% of all shelter residents were children. The proposed new purpose-built shelter will be the safe, modern sanctuary that homeless families need to heal and rebuild their lives. Homeless families deserve the best of what we can do to help them and this wonderful new shelter, in the heart of our amazingly supportive community, will do exactly that!

The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Red Door Family Shelter want to thank all of the City staff from the many City Divisions and the team at Harhay for their ongoing support of our Shelter and their commitment to creating a permanent home for us at 875 Queen Street East.

We are also extremely grateful for the remarkable and ongoing support of our local Leslieville community and the 50,000 people who signed letters of support on Red Door's behalf.

We also want to acknowledge the support of Mayor Tory and members of City Council who have consistently voted to support the Red Door Family Shelter and who have committed the funding to build the shelter at 875 Queen Street East.

Lastly, we thank and acknowledge the leadership and support of Councillor Paula Fletcher and her office staff who have been steadfast in their support of the Red Door Family Shelter. They have championed our work tirelessly and for that we are sincerely grateful.

In closing we strongly encourage the members of the Toronto East York Community Council to support the application before you today. Your vote in support of the application will provide the foundation we need to build a better future for the Red Door Family Shelter and most importantly the homeless families that we serve in building a better future.

Yours truly,

Ann Elliott, President and Chair

Christine Mapp Batchelor

Christine Ernst, Vice President

Denise Gordon-Mohamud

Catherine Playford, Treasurer

Sandra Bussin

Rachel Grinberg

Elizabeth Simmie

Barbara Campbell