

January 18, 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

As a member of the Red Door Family Shelter Capital Campaign Committee, I would like to express my strong support for this Application.

I have had the opportunity to review the plans for the new shelter building, which will be incorporated into the new mixed use residential building at 875 and 887 Queen Street East. I am fully supportive of: 1) the partnership between the City of Toronto and the applicant to construct the new purpose built shelter at this location; and, 2) the City's provision of a long term lease to the Red Door Family Shelter. The shelter will provide much needed support and services to homeless families in Toronto.

The shelter's existing building was not designed to accommodate and serve over 100 people a day. Different families are required to share bedrooms during a time of extreme, personal duress. There is insufficient space for support programs. The building is dilapidated, which drives both higher operating costs and the constant threat of major expenses for repairs. In short, the existing situation is tolerated by the Red Door's ever-grateful clients – but it is not sustainable.

In 2015, the Red Door Family Shelter served over 603 Toronto families; the majority of the residents were children. The new, purpose-built shelter contemplated in the planning application before you will be a safe, modern sanctuary for these children and their families to heal and rebuild their lives.

I 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 needed to build a better future for the Red Door Family Shelter, and most importantly for the homeless children and families that are served in building a better future.

Sincerely,

Dann Cushing
Red Door Capital Campaign committee member