

**From:** [Connelly, Jo](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2019.MM12.21 on November 26, 2019 City Council  
**Date:** November 26, 2019 10:35:48 AM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the November 26, 2019 City Council meeting on item 2019.MM12.21, Ending Homelessness - Building New Supportive Housing Now - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments: As Executive Director of the Inner City Family Health Team, I want to support this important initiative to build more supportive and affordable housing. Thank you Councillor Joe Cressy and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam for this urgent endeavour. We are a City bursting at the seams. While the vacancy rate is extremely low and rental costs are escalating many people are shut out of the housing market. On top of that, many people in shelters need a variety of supports available to them—health care and case management. We at ICFHT welcome the chance to build a comprehensive housing stock from completely independent and deeply affordable units to fully supportive 24/7 housing units depending on client choice and client need. At the same time, we cannot forget all the people who need access to safe shelter options while we build these units. We cannot let people remain in ravines, under bridges, in abandoned cars, and in stairwells because there are no spaces in shelters or respite centres. Every time a shelter or respite is opened it is full within days and many of these people have not received health care or case management support for months and even years. We need a comprehensive continuum of housing options and I very much appreciate this motion by Councillors Cressy and Wong-Tam. Let's stand together and build the complete system that we need.

Jo Connelly, Executive Director of the Inner City Family Health Team