



Attention: City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee
Re: PH 6.2, Inclusionary Zoning Official Policy Directions

Monday May 27, 2019

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network or SCAN which is a non-partisan, community-driven network whose aim is to help mobilize a civic voice for Scarborough, one that is inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented communities and reflective of the diversity of community members who live here. SCAN is made up of 14 community-serving agencies across Scarborough along with neighbourhood groups and resident leaders and is governed by its issue-focused action mandate which is shaped by broad community input obtained annually.

In its 2018-19 survey of almost 1000 Scarborough residents, housing was identified as the top priority area with an emphasis on the need for more decent affordable housing for low-to-moderate income tenants. Statistics show that more than 44% of tenants in Scarborough are spending more than one third of their income on their shelter costs. We have seen and heard the impact in our communities with the visibly noticeable increase of food bank usage and the growing number of stories about renovations and hardships owing to rent increases.

SCAN recently conducted community consultations for the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan 2019-2022 and we spoke with over 130 residents in all parts of Scarborough including Malvern, Dorset Park, Steeles L'Amoreaux, Scarborough North and Oakridge. In virtually all of the consultations, housing was identified as the main issue and affordability was one of the dominant concerns.

With this context, I am writing to share that community input speaks to the urgent need for the City of Toronto to implement measures that would make affordable housing available for those most in need, namely, low-to-moderate income tenants.

In terms of the City of Toronto's Inclusionary Zoning, community input across Scarborough points to the need for policies that ensure the following:

- An increase in the supply of affordable units in Scarborough for low-to-moderate income renters.
- An optimal and effective level of affordable housing supply for tenants across Scarborough.
- Broad geographic application so that inclusionary zoning will benefit Scarborough residents along with other areas of the city undergoing development.

Through our consultations and engagement with Scarborough residents, we see a strong and urgent desire to see the City of Toronto enact policies that will effectively bring about an increase in the supply of decent affordable housing for all residents including tenants and help to build an inclusive city for all for today and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Kim".

Anna Kim, Coordinator of the Scarborough Civic Action Network
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