

Economic and Community Development

From: Lakeshore Village BIA <lakeshorebia@gmail.com>
Sent: October 8, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Economic and Community Development
Cc: Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Subject: EC 16.1 Proposed Shelter on Lake Shore Blvd W
Attachments: Following Up 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd W.pdf; For Immediate Release.pdf

Categories: Communication

Dear Julie Lavertu,

Please find attached documents for the Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on October 14, in reference to agenda item EC 16.1.
These are on behalf of Chris Korwin-Kuczynski Chair of the Lakeshore Village BIA.

Thank you,

Meghan Mesheu
Coordinator
Lakeshore Village BIA
647-459-8727
enjoytheshore.ca



September 11, 2020

Mayor John Tory
100 Queen St W, Toronto

Re: 2950/2970 Lake Shore Blvd W

Dear Mayor Tory:

We are writing today to follow up on the letter sent July 27, 2020 in which we requested a delay for community consultation in advance of the acquisition of 2950 and 2970 Lake Shore Blvd W for a shelter. Thankfully city council voted in favor of this on July 28, 2020. It is now September 11 and no community consultation has been scheduled or occurred, despite repeated requests to Councillor Grimes office and SSHA. We must oppose a shelter at this location because the information that we had requested and the opportunity to ask questions about the impact to an already overburdened community has not taken place.

We expect to know the following:

- The type of client in the shelter (e.g. single men, families, refugees, etc.)
- Timelines for construction and opening
- The plan to mitigate the impact on the surrounding businesses
- The plan to increase police presence in the area
- Possibility of other uses for this location

Distancing requirements are also a concern as this proposed shelter location is right next to an existing shelter.

Besides the lack of communication regarding this initiative, we have heard that the city is proposing to purchase the property at a significant premium over fair market value – confidential sources indicate that the city is paying \$13-\$15M for the building (2020 assessed value of the building is \$5.3M). How can such overspending be justified?

On behalf of our businesses and their customers, we are requesting transparency and public consultation be a priority for your government before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Korwin-Kuczynski".

Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Chair
Lakeshore Village BIA

cc. Councillor Mark Grimes

For Immediate Release:



Lakeshore Village BIA Denied Free Speech

The Lakeshore Village BIA was informed late Friday afternoon October 2 by the Economic Development and Culture Department of the City of Toronto, "that the BIA needs to discontinue activity opposing the Proposed Homeless Shelter that has already been approved by Council, although the sale closes on November 4th, a decision on having a shelter in the area has already been made, therefore the BIA Board cannot take a position contrary to any Council approved policy or decision". The Lakeshore Village BIA wants full concrete consultation with the community before any final decision to acquire the properties at 2950/2970 Lake Shore Blvd W. as a shelter to takes place.

The City has failed to provide even the most basic details about the project, which may reassure the community such as:

- The number of beds in the proposed project
- The type of clients in the shelter
- Timelines for construction and opening
- The plan to mitigate the impact on the surrounding businesses
- Other possible uses for the property

Other areas of concern are; the city is buying these properties at 3 times the market value at over 13million dollars, the shelter is right next to another supportive housing project, and a housing proposal for the site was refused.

The BIA is not able to present these concerns to council "With the shelter by-law and associate policy, Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 19 section 19-3.2 limitations section 1, would prevent the BIA from holding a position contrary to what the city has already decided". The Lakeshore Village BIA cannot believe that they cannot represent the concerns of their BIA members. Chris Korwin-Kuzcynski, Chair of the Lakeshore Village BIA comments "our BIA is being muzzled; we are being denied our democratic right to express our point of view because we have an extended board affiliation with the City of Toronto. I thought we lived in a democratic country. Our right to free speech is being denied by the City of Toronto."

For media inquiries, please contact:

Chris Korwin-Kuzcynski

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416-845-5777

About: Lakeshore Village BIA represents a varied business membership made up of small to medium businesses in retail, cafes, health and fitness, bars and restaurants in the Heart of New Toronto.