

PH17.4.9



October 20, 2020

Sent via email - phc@toronto.ca

Dear Deputy Mayor and Committee Members,

We are writing to support the recommendations and action plan contained in the staff report for Item PH17.4 – *Creating New Supportive Housing Opportunities in Parkdale in Partnership with the University Health Network and United Way of Greater Toronto*- before you tomorrow.

The Alliance supports this project as it will increase the amount of quality supportive housing in Toronto. We all know how much this is needed, and how linked our City's recovery from COVID-19 is to our ability to create as many homes for people without them. TAEH members are deputing before you today on other items as well, all taking us further towards reaching our shared target of a minimum of 18,000 supportive housing units over the next 10 years.

This project is also a strong example of a multi-partner approach, bringing the collective assets of every organization to achieve greater results for the people served by it. In that it also integrates provincially funded health services with housing to address homelessness, it also is a timely example of intergovernmental cooperation.

We are aware, and support, the concerns of the tenants in the existing buildings that will be effected by this project. I have spoken with a number of our partners in the Parkdale neighbourhood specifically about this issue and the TAEH shares the community's call for a meaningful, fully inclusive process for the neighbourhood, its residents, University Health Network (UHN), the United Way and the City to vision and plan this project. TAEH is also willing to assist in this process, and are well situated to do so as the City's Non-Indigenous Community Advisory Board and co-chair of the Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service Planning Forum.

It is encouraging to read in the report that both the UHN and the United Way recognize their past and present roles and are committed to working openly with the community. The Social Medicine Initiative is one of the best strategies we have in reducing and ultimately ending homelessness, and this potential of this project to demonstrate models that can be scaled up to wider policy solutions is also promising. As such, the TAEH and our partners will be watching this project closely – both to assist in, and ensure, it's success.

Sincerely,

Kira Heineck, Executive Lead

Committed to Ending Homelessness

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