

November 9, 2021

Re: **Agenda Item PH.28.1** Inclusionary Zoning Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Implementation Guidelines (Ward All - Statutory: Planning Act, RSO 1990)

FoodShare is writing in support of an Inclusionary Zoning policy for Toronto that:

- Requires new developments to set aside 20% of units for affordable housing from the outset;
- Maintains the current proposal of affordable units being held as affordable for at least 99 years and;
- Uses a definition of affordable that is geared to income and not to market rates for rental housing.

The high cost of housing is a driving force of food insecurity in Toronto. It's further compounded by the increasing cost of food and overall inflation. This is especially concerning for those that are experiencing poverty, women, and Black, Indigenous, racialized, newcomer and LGBTQ2S+ communities, people with disabilities, and seniors - especially those who hold intersecting identities. In 2017 the average food bank visitor in Toronto spent 70% of their income on rent or housing ([2017 Hunger Report](#)), and across the city more and more neighbourhoods have a majority of renters spending over 50% of their income sustaining the roof over their head. According to the Daily Bread's [Who's Hungry Report 2020](#), affording rent is the number one reason food bank users reported skipping meals.

Housing is a fundamental human right, the pressures placed on folks in communities across this city by the runaway cost of housing is undermining the ability to afford a decent quality of life, and to put food on the table. Bolder action must be taken urgently to protect these rights. We believe that the city has an important opportunity to help deliver housing for those that are forced to struggle to access it the most.

We know that when our municipal governments take action to protect people's housing, as governments have done in other jurisdictions, the rates of food bank usage drops, food insecurity rates drop, and people are able to participate in their communities in more meaningful ways.

We encourage you to seize the opportunity to be as bold as possible in the face of the housing crisis.

Best,



Paul M. Taylor
Executive Director