

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM34.35	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Help for Fontbonne Place - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

**** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.***

**** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.***

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat to work with the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office and Fontbonne Ministries to review the impacts of the Ontario Line, in its currently proposed configuration, on the ongoing viability of the supportive housing at Fontbonne Place, and the health and well-being of its residents; and include the initial findings of this review in the report on the Ontario Line to be considered at the July 6, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

Summary

Fontbonne Ministries, the operator of Fontbonne Place, in their discussions with Metrolinx have become aware that running the Ontario Line aboveground in the rail corridor in Riverside/Leslieville poses serious problems for the residents of Fontbonne Place, both during and after construction.

Fontbonne Place is located at 791 Queen Street East and has 18 one-bedroom apartments. They are provided to older women, on a rent-geared-to-income basis who otherwise would be homeless or inadequately housed, in response to Toronto's lack of affordable housing. Women applying to live there must be in one of the following situations: in need of rent-geared-to-income housing, or currently homeless or under-housed, or in danger of losing housing, or living in an untenable situation.

Each resident also has the opportunity to take part in the Mustard Seed community programs that operates out of the same building. Mustard Seed is an important local community program that provides life skills programs and community for adults in a safe space for social connection, in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

The mitigation measures suggested by Metrolinx so far seem entirely inadequate. Addressing this issue will require sufficient time, resources and expertise of City's Housing Secretariat.

Solutions to this problem may take a long time to develop. If requests need to be made of Metrolinx, they should be done as soon as possible while they are still in the design phase of the project. As well, Fontbonne Place staff and residents need to know the City is actively reviewing the situation and is seeking solutions.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34