



Thursday February 25, 2021.

Attention: Planning and Housing Committee

Re: PH21.2 Activating a Revitalization Plan for the Dundas Sherbourne Neighbourhood (Ward 13)

My name is Kate Uffelman and I am a frontline worker at Regent Park Community Health Centre. RPCHC provides a number of programs and services for people in the downtown east end (DTE) of Toronto. Some of these services include harm reduction programming, consumption treatment services, safe supply program, street outreach, primary care walk in clinic, social work and housing supports.

We have witnessed the housing and shelter crisis unimaginably worsen since the pandemic. For many years now there has been no housing available for people. The shelters continue to be full, overcrowded and offer unsafe congregate settings in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We need action and 214-230 Sherbourne St., a vacant lot and rooming house located at the corner of Dundas and Sherbourne continues to sit vacant. This area has been especially hard hit by the housing and shelter crisis and compounded by the tragic and preventable loss of life due to the toxic drug supply and an increasing number of overdose deaths. People have been left with nowhere to go - no housing, no shelters and now very limited access to safe indoor space such as drop-ins, or access to showers, laundry, bathrooms, phones, etc. This is a crisis. While there are attempts to put band aids on gaping wounds, building more affordable, accessible housing is the only long-term solution, we need real, concrete solutions. We need social housing to be built now.

The City must take decisive and urgent action. The report before you (that we have been waiting for since December of 2019) has only 2 paragraphs on the property at 214-230 Sherbourne. Over 25 organizations, many of which operate in the DTE, have expressed their support for the expropriation of the site for social housing and have been committed to ongoing advocacy about this issue over the last several years. People without access to housing or living below the poverty line in the neighborhood were consulted on the vision for the site and want to see as much social housing built there given the huge need in the community. This report was meant to include information on funding for the purchase and expropriation of 214-230 Sherbourne and does not provide any recommendation for any details to be reported back to the committee or the community.

Regent Park Community Health Centre calls on the Planning and Housing Committee to ensure that City staff act now to expropriate 214-230 Sherbourne. We cannot watch this crisis escalate. We request that a motion be put forward today that directs staff to return to this committee in April with an update on where the expropriation process of the site is and a timeline for completion. We cannot stress enough the urgent need for this action.

**Main Office**

465 Dundas Street East  
Toronto, ON M5A 2B2

**Switchboard**

Phone: 416-364-2261  
Fax: 416-364-0822

**Clinical**

Phone: 416-203-4507  
Fax: 416-364-0822

**Community Health**

Phone: 416-203-4506  
Fax: 416-364-0822

**Dental**

Phone: 416-364-7019

**Pathways to Education**

2nd Floor,  
411 Parliament Street  
Toronto, ON M5A 3A1  
Phone: 416-642-1570  
Fax: 416-642-1577

**EarlyON**

Upper Level  
38 Regent Street  
Toronto, ON M5A 3N7  
Phone: 416-362-0805  
Fax: 416-362-5899

**Diabetes Education Program**

409 Parliament Street  
1st Floor  
Toronto, ON M5A 3A1  
Phone: 416-603-0336  
Fax 416-603-8068

[www.regentparkchc.org](http://www.regentparkchc.org)

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.  
Sincerely,  
Kate Uffelman