



March 1, 2021

To: Members of Planning and Housing Committee
Abigail Bond, Executive Director, Housing Secretariat

Re: Opportunity to increase social housing in Downtown East Toronto

I am writing to urge you to take the opportunity to increase the stock of social housing that is desperately needed in the Dundas-Sherbourne area. The property at 214-230 Sherbourne St. has been the focus of advocacy for many years, driven by need and a broad range of community participants who want to see the potential of this site realized.

In March of 2018, a motion was passed at City Council to investigate the acquisition or expropriation of the properties at 214-230 Sherbourne St. In July of 2018, Council passed a motion to make a conditional offer on the properties should they become available. On December 2019, (PH11.10) Council authorized staff to initiate negotiations to acquire the properties and to identify funding possibilities for acquisition. Additional information was to return to the planning and housing committee meeting in April of 2020, however this process was disrupted by the sudden onset of COVID.

The report now going to the Planning and Housing Committee on Tuesday March 2, 2021 fails to make any recommendations about the expropriation of 214-230 Sherbourne Ave. This failure will be a huge missed opportunity to make a difference in this neighbourhood if it is not addressed by you, as members of the committee, and as the Executive Director of the Housing Secretariat.

Many Toronto Drop in Network members offer safe, dignified, supportive space for community members who are homeless, street involved or living on low income in this area. As a Network, we know very well the extent and depth of the need for more social housing and supports. The pandemic has also demonstrated, once again, how important self-contained housing is for the overall health and well-being of our communities.

We support the call for immediate action to expropriate the property at 214-230 Sherbourne to build social housing.

Sincerely

Susan Bender
Manager, Toronto Drop in Network