

From: [East York Cares](#)
To: [Planning and Housing](#)
Subject: Planning and Housing Committee: 20 Bracebridge Ave
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We wanted to follow up with the group on our efforts to advocate for a positive outcome around community safety. Like most in the community, we are supportive of finding solutions to improve the crisis with Toronto's homeless community. Since hearing about this proposal, we have tried to make progress on many goals with this as one goal; trying to advocate that this development has a good plan in place to ensure limited impact on our community's safety.

We've been consistently told by city staff that there is absolutely no cause for concern and that there is no anticipated impact to community safety. When the Modular housing website launched, there was an FAQ that said:

Concerns about neighbourhood safety

We do not anticipate any increased public safety issues in the neighbourhood as a result of the new modular housing projects. The properties will be managed by a non-profit housing provider who will be responsible to ensure that community concerns are addressed.

We have asked multiple times during our community consultation meetings for reference material that lead to that statement. Abigail Bond who is the executive director of the Housing Secretariat and leading this project referenced a study by the Wellesley Institute (<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/.../11/weareneighbours.pdf>) as their rationale. As we mentioned at the last community engagement meeting (<https://youtu.be/txKpZUJSEiE?t=3994>), that this study was incredibly problematic and not a sound basis for decision making. Specifically, the study had a citation that demonstrably showed an increase in crime for larger facilities (more than 53 tenants). During that same meeting, Abigail acknowledged the concern with that study and told us she would provide additional supporting reference material. We have made multiple attempts at correspondence to obtain that reference material, it has not yet been provided.

Some members of our new Cedarvale CLC, had an opportunity to attend the Macey CLC to get a better understanding of the current state. The attending police sergeant shared that the police were being called multiple times a day assisting with settling disputes, mental health issues, medical issues, fire alarms and substance abuse. There have been reported break-ins at a nearby garage and that discarded needles and feces were being collected at a nearby parkette. The reported challenges from the Macey CLC are a stark contrast to the messaging we are consistently receiving by city staff.

East York Cares had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Tory and Councillor Bradford in a small group session. In this meeting, Mayor Tory agreed on the need for both qualitative and quantitative metrics to monitor the outcomes of this development.

We believe the Cedarvale CLC will be a great location to collect qualitative metrics from our community. Quantitative metrics are also readily available from the Toronto Police Service Open Data Catalogue (<https://data.torontopolice.on.ca/pages/catalogue>). As a proof of concept, we extracted all Major Crime Records from this database and created a publicly available dashboard (<https://datastudio.google.com/.../ad8bef50.../page/FAdEC>) that allows anyone to explore crime reports over time within the near vicinity of existing modular housing locations. I've summarized some results for Macey below.

We believe there is an opportunity to have systems in place to measure community impact with qualitative and quantitative metrics. It is unfortunate that data-driven decision making isn't being led directly by city staffers. We have the tools, data, and systems available to our community to understand the impact, what we now need is the city to define protocols for remediation should there be any negative outcomes.

We've been repeatedly told that there is no cause for concern - we agree that this would be the best possible outcome. However, if city staff are incorrect in their assumptions - what are they going to do to manage it? As agreed upon at the previous engagement meetings.



Sincerely,

East York Cares