



June 28, 2021

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão
Chair, Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto

Via email to :phc@toronto.ca

Madam Chair and Members,

RE: PH25.13 Rapid Housing Initiative - 150 Dunn Avenue (Part of a Larger Parcel of Land Including 74, 82, 130, 160, and 162 Dunn Avenue, 1-17 Close Avenue, and 74 and 78 Springhurst Avenue) (Ward 4)

I am writing on behalf of United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) in support of this motion before you. Your adoption of this motion will help to meet urgent needs and advance the Social Medicine Initiative (SMI), a transformative partnership between UWGT, the University Health Network (UHN) and the City of Toronto. We share a collective vision for coordinated approaches to supportive housing, integrating primary care and essential social supports to ensure the wellbeing and stability of residents. As we can all agree, housing security for all is an imperative as we approach recovery and rebuild for a more equitable and compassionate Toronto.

The innovative approach to the SMI housing initiative will help vulnerable populations improve their health outcomes. It will provide more housing opportunities for people who are currently under-served by the healthcare system while experiencing homelessness and other challenges imposed by poverty.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the existing social, economic, and health inequities experienced by too many of Toronto's residents – the City needs new effective partnerships that address complex issues in a coordinated way. The Social Medicine Initiative is an important response.

The adoption of this motion will support meeting the target opening date of the 51 units of modular housing dedicated for people experiencing homelessness. As you know, the City of Toronto's 2018 Street Needs Assessment estimated there to be 8,715 people experiencing homelessness in Toronto. The City of Toronto has made significant progress reducing this number through various initiatives including the development of other modular and supportive housing units. There is still progress to be made.

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All efforts to expedite modular housing, and other supportive and affordable housing projects, translate into shortening the personal crises of people experiencing homelessness and housing precarity.

The SMI's housing initiative, and bringing 51 new units of modular housing online for people experiencing homelessness aligns with the recommendations of several City of Toronto and United Way Greater Toronto supported strategies, including:

- 1.) The **COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Recovery Response Plan's** objectives to expedite the development of modular housing and create 1,000 new permanent modular homes for vulnerable and marginalized residents;
- 2.) The **Housing and People Action Plan's** guiding principles to meet the urgent and critical needs of those without homes, and to deepen collaboration with community partners;
- 3.) The **TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy's** recommendations to assist low-income individuals and families to secure and maintain affordable housing; and,
- 4.) The **Interim Shelter Recovery Strategy's** priorities to invest in housing and supports to decrease the volume and duration of need for emergency shelter.

Your support for this motion is support for Toronto's vulnerable residents and a better way of providing care and social supports. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership as both of our organizations support an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



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