

September 19th, 2021

Attention: Planning & Housing Committee and Toronto City Council – September 21

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
email: phc@toronto.ca

UHN Letter of Support

RE: 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)

Dear City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee:

University Health Network (UHN) is pleased to continue its support of the Rapid Housing Initiative's 150 Dunn Avenue project with the development of modular supportive housing taking place on UHN's EW Bickle Centre for Complex Continuing Care's South Parking lot. This is made possible through a first-of-its-kind partnership with the City of Toronto and the United Way of Greater Toronto (UWGT).

With this project's approval through the Planning and Housing Committee and City Council this past summer, we saw the Parkdale community come together through an extensive, multi-channel, city-led engagement process. UHN, the local Councillor, existing UHN-Parkdale tenants and surrounding neighbours participated in discussions on the proposed build and provided feedback that has helped revise the plan to meet the short and long-term needs of some of the city's most marginalized populations.

At UHN we have seen the devastating effects of homelessness and housing insecurity on health and well-being. These factors contribute to poor health outcomes, high health needs, a disconnection from primary care and a higher proportion of hospital visitations.

In 2019, UHN launched the Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine to address these significant gaps in care with a goal of integrating the social determinants of health (poverty, unstable housing, and isolation) into care delivery and to improve the quality of care for disadvantaged populations.

Through the UHN's Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine partnership with the City of Toronto and UGTW, this project is governed by principles of equity, dignity and self-determination in providing vulnerable and marginalized residents with safe, adequate, affordable homes with a range of health and social support, while fostering a sense of community connection.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of our continued excitement and support of the Rapid Housing Initiative and development of the 4-storey modular building that will create approximately 51 new supportive housing units for the city's homeless population, including UHN's highest need patients.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Boozary
Executive Director, Social Medicine and Population Health
University Health Network

Ms. Rebecca Repa
Executive Vice President,
University Health Network