



Thursday, October 28, 2021

RE: Item, PH28.2, Housing Now Initiative - Annual Progress Update and Launch of Phase Three Sites. Attachment 2.

Dear Planning and Housing Committee:

We all recognize the importance and urgency of implementing affordable housing across Toronto.

While reviewing PH28.2, attachment 2, Housing Now Future Phase Pipeline Sites, we noted that 5151 Yonge Street, a public parking lot, has been proposed for a site for future due diligence.

Having just been made aware of this, we are currently unclear as to what criteria will be used to assess the feasibility of this site, what public consultation may or may not occur, and what steps will be taken to best enhance the overall net positive.

Many businesses have been economically hard hit by COVID-19 and the recovery period will be long. Removing affordable, convenient customer parking during an extensive construction project along Yonge where on street parking will be permanently removed has the potential to further challenge the viability of recovering local businesses and the livelihoods of small business owners.

We kindly request that an impact study be undertaken in consultation with the community for this site in light of the upcoming Reimagining Yonge Project, in particular how to mitigate impacts. For example, the possibility of retaining public parking on the site underground and prioritizing the many other potential sites first to hopefully begin 5151 Yonge development after Reimagining Yonge construction.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Burnham
Executive Director
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