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Toronto Violates Senior Citizens' Rights with Secret Homeless Housing Plans

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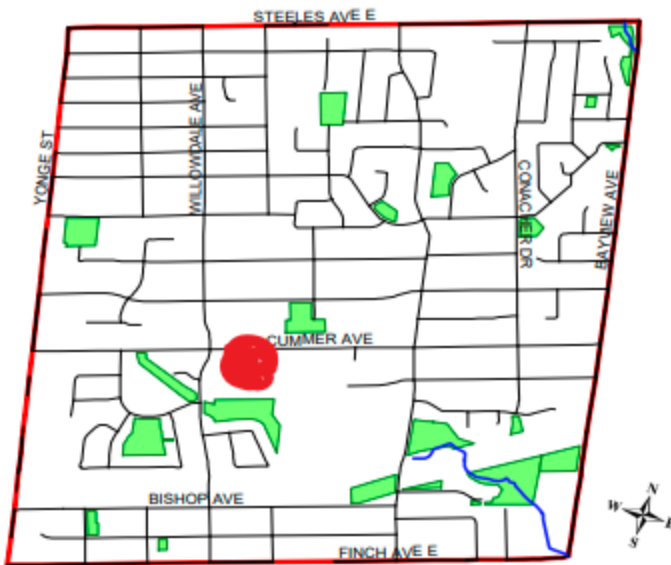


[VOICES OF WILLOWDALE](#)

Ward 18 Toronto Community Group
[2 articles](#) Following



Newtonbrook East



➤ On March 10, 2021 Toronto City Council declared it will place a PERMANENT homelessness project on the front lawn of WILLOWDALE MANOR seniors home, destroying their protected green parklands. The elderly community affected by the plan is mostly non-English speaking Koreans, Chinese and various other multi ethnic immigrants.



➤ The City plans to cut down dozens of mature trees and replace the parklands with “supportive modular housing”. These are pre-built 350 square foot "rental units" to house the homeless.



➤ Most or all of the 64 units will house men with serious addictions and mental health issues. This will happen immediately next to the over 600 elderly at Willowdale Manor and Cummer Lodge, and next to the neighbouring patients of St. John's Rehab.

"Unfortunately, Local Councilor John Filion and Toronto Housing Executive Abigail Bond have been painting a distorted picture by trivializing the real challenges and impairments that this homeless population faces.... It's not rocket science to imagine how putting 60+ people together who all have the same intensive and complex challenges without proper intensive supports may be a recipe for disaster. " **SEE THE ARTICLE - Medical Misinformation: A Rushed Plan that Fails Both Our Seniors and the Homeless** <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/medical-misinformation-failing-homeless-voices-of-willowdale/?trackingId=UizdjPm9TeeI7RI2nrN6Fg%3D%3D>

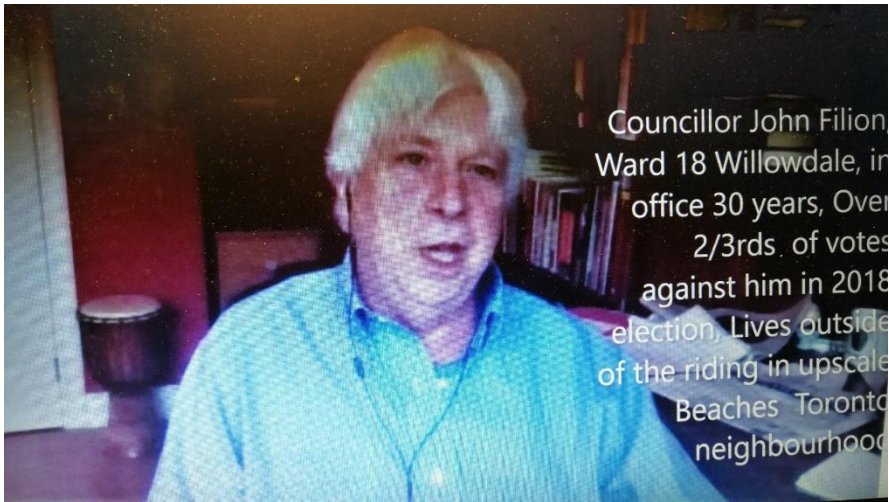


➤ The City claims this is an “emergency response” with a “fast-track” process, and has proceeded to target sites across the City with NO PUBLIC PRE-CONSULTATION. It also aims to REMOVE ALL RIGHTS OF REVIEW and APPEAL.

➤ The City also wants a special order from the Government of Ontario (a so-called “MZO”). The MZO will, as Councillor **Shelley Carroll** has said, “completely avoid the democratic process” and "strip citizens of all rights" to appeal the City decision to an independent authority, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).



➤ **MPP Stan Cho**, Korean-Canadian Member of Ontario's Provincial Parliament for the Willowdale riding has released a letter he wrote the same day that Toronto approved its secretive plans on March 10, 2021. Mr. Cho urges Minister [Steve Clark](#) NOT to grant the MZO special order requested by the City of Toronto.



➤ Those who have raised concerns have been repeatedly ignored or attacked by local Councillor **John Filion**, a local official who has held his seat for 30 years despite the fact two thirds of the votes cast in the last election were cast **against** him.

➤ Mr. Filion's March 12 newsletter states “[they] attempted to dehumanize the homeless to justify doing nothing for them.”!

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON **MAY 7, 1997**

UDZ-96-39 - METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING COMPANY LTD.
Zoning Amendment Application to permit a 22 unit, 2-3 storey,
townhouse development at an overall density of 0.90 F.S.I.
Location: 175 Cummer Avenue
WARD 11

A discussion followed during which time Councillor Filion, the Ward Councillor, indicated that there is no question that everyone supports the renovations to Willowdale Manor and he would be prepared to put as much time as he can to find the money to renovate those units. However, he was not prepared to sell off the greenspace in front of 175 Cummer Avenue. He further indicated that he was able to obtain a copy of the Planning report prepared for this site approximately 30 years ago and it is quite clear in that report that this entire site was being considered for parkland. The compromise that was reached after considerable negotiations was the existing building known as Willowdale Manor. He believed that it was Council's intent at that time that the existing greenspace remain as such. However, Council, at that time, neglected to designate some of the vacant land in various areas of the Municipality as greenspace. In terms of Block "J", Metro purchased the land for a nominal sum of \$2.00 however there was no condition in the agreement of purchase and sale that the lands in question should remain as greenspace. As sympathetic as he is for the renovations to Willowdale Manor, he believed that it was inappropriate to sell the greenspace. The only other possible exception would be if the lands were to be developed with additional seniors' housing. There is an aging population in Willowdale and there is a shortage of sites that have access to public transit. In his opinion, the proposed development is only a short term solution in trying to get funds to renovate the units at Willowdale Manor. He therefore suggested that the application be refused and prior to this matter being considered by Council he would do his utmost to investigate other possibilities in obtaining funding to undertake the renovations at Willowdale Manor.

Motion: It was moved by Councillor Filion that the application be REFUSED.
The voting on the motion was as follows:

FOR:	ABSENT:
Filion Severino Minnen-Wong	Feldman Berger Flint

The motion was declared by the Chairman to be carried.

➤ Ironically, Councillor Filion is on record since as far back as 1997-98 insisting these parklands were always intended to be preserved and form part of the seniors home. In fact, he successfully opposed Toronto Housing's attempt at the time to develop only a third of the number of dwellings! A decision confirmed by the Ontario Municipal Board. The flip flop has many local residents suspicious since Mr. Filion recently sold his mansion just blocks away from this site to move to an upscale neighborhood 20kms away.

➤ Watch the video below and judge for yourself as John Filion sidesteps, insults, dismisses and fails to respond to legitimate questions from upset residents.

The Federal Government is paying for most of the project and Ehsassi appeared at the first "public engagement session" after the City announced the site, smiling and supporting the decision.

Is Willowdale MP Ali Ehsassi supporting Councillor Filion's fiasco at Willowdale Manor?

**How can you help protect Seniors,
save their trees and parklands,
preserve safety and
help the homeless?**



Go to our website www.VoicesOfWillowdale.ca

Sign up for our free newsletter
Join the online petition
Donate & HELP US fight the legal battle to come.
We are 100% VOLUNTEERS



Every resident *"has the right to be given access to protected areas outside the long-term care facility in order to enjoy outdoor activity, unless the physical setting makes this impossible."*

The Ontario Government Bill of Rights for those who live in seniors homes guarantees:
"Every resident has the right to be given access to protected outdoor areas in order to enjoy outdoor activity unless the physical setting makes this impossible."

Go to our website www.VoicesOfWillowdale.ca

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