



Re: Agenda Item EX31.4 Strategic Acquisition of 214 to 230 Sherbourne Street to Support City-Building

Dear Councillor Bailão, Mayor Tory, and City Council,

Thank you for your approval to bid on the purchase of 214-230 Sherbourne. We are writing to ask that Council not give up on this important opportunity to create affordable rent geared to income housing in a city that is deep in an affordable housing crisis. Junction Triangle Community Action Network (JT-CAN) is supporting the longstanding call from residents and community groups including Not Another Black Life, Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction, Equitable Action for Change, This Way Up, Unity Kitchen, OCAP, Regent Park Community Health Centre Advocacy Committee, and the Shelter and Housing Justice Network, for Council to vote to **expropriate the property to create rent-geared-to-income social housing units.**

We also support the call from Black and Indigenous organizers that this housing be directed to support Black and Indigenous communities. This is inline with the City's commitments through the [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#) as well as the [Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032](#), being considered at Council April 6th.

There is urgent housing need in the Sherbourne community, where multiple people have lost their lives due to cold exposure. It is vital to reserve this rare development site, as unhoused and underhoused people have existing community supports and services in the area.

[Toronto's Housing Charter](#) affirms that housing is a human right, and that residents have the right to an affordable home, with equitable access to services, and that takes into account the specific needs of historically marginalized groups. City development should be driven wholly by the needs of residents to have affordable, adequate, safe and secure housing – not the demand for real estate profit. The City needs to use every tool available to them to generate more units of rent geared to income housing, this is the time to act.

As the City's "housing advocate," we are calling on our councillor here in the Junction Triangle, Councillor Ana Bailão, to champion the community's call to expropriate this land. And we urge Councillors to begin expropriating purpose built rent geared to income housing in our city as a tool for retaining affordable rental units and preventing the evictions of our neighbors for the purposes of lining the pockets of the wealthy.

We urge you to prioritize the lives of unhoused & underhoused people and vote to expropriate 214-230 Sherbourne to create truly affordable social housing. Don't let this opportunity pass us by.

Sincerely,

Hannah Fleisher, Jess Misak, Karin Baqi, Katie German, Vicki McGregor, & Zahra Ebrahim on behalf of:

**Junction Triangle Community Action Network (JT-CAN)**

<https://jtcan.org/> - twitter: @junctiontcan