



January 14, 2022

Planning & Housing Committee
Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
West Tower, 10th Floor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
phc@toronto.ca

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing you today on behalf of Second Harvest to strongly urge the Committee to reject the proposed conversion of 125 The Queensway into a residential development. The site of this project would be adjacent to the entrance to the Ontario Food Terminal and would pose a significant threat to their ability to distribute food across the city and continue to support a resilient food supply chain.

The Ontario Food Terminal and its vendors play a crucial role in our community's food network, providing vital support to residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations throughout the City of Toronto. The Terminal provides the residents of Toronto access to a wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables within walking distance of their home. It enables small businesses like independent grocers, restaurants, and caterers, to compete against chain stores. Further, it is a fundamental partner in addressing food security and equity by supporting organizations like ours to get nutritious produce to people who otherwise may not have access to it. Because of the support Second Harvest receives from the Ontario Food Terminal and vendors, we have been able to rescue and redistribute over 4.7 million pounds of food throughout the City and Greater Toronto Area, preventing the equivalent of over 17 million lbs. of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

Furthermore, the City has continuously supported the designation of the Ontario Food Terminal as a Provincially Significant Employment Zone. The Terminal provides work to 5,000 employees - and that is not including the countless people they indirectly employ by supporting countless growers and businesses throughout the province. Moreover, the area surrounding the Terminal is just as significant to employment as numerous people are employed by the wholesalers and food processors in the agri-food network nearby the Terminal. With 1 in 5 households experiencing food insecurity in Toronto, disrupting this significant employment resource would be unconscionable, and an affront to the local communities that rely on Terminal for employment and nutrient dense food.

To conclude, I implore you to reject the proposed development at 125 The Queensway so the Ontario Food Terminal can continue to build to a thriving food network that employs and nourishes Torontonians and beyond. We recognize the need for more housing in Toronto is great, but to live here does not solve the equally great needs of residents to be able to earn a living and put food on the table.



Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Nikkel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lori Nikkel
CEO
Second Harvest

cc: Jeff Cantos, City Planning Division, jeffrey.cantos@toronto.ca
Councillor Mark Grimes, councillor_grimes@toronto.ca