



**MORE NEIGHBOURS
TORONTO**

Dear Members of City Council,

RE: PH.32.1 - Housing Now Site at 158 Borough Drive

About More Neighbours Toronto

[More Neighbours Toronto](#) is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and has cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours Toronto supports these Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments that are needed to achieve the height and density to support the creation of new affordable rental housing at 158 Borough Drive for a period of 99 years via the City's Housing Now program.

Toronto is in a housing crisis, with increasing rents and homelessness. The Housing Now program is an opportunity for the City to make the most of its land by increasing the allowed height and density, working with development partners to get affordable housing built and to begin addressing the crisis. Past experience, such as that at 150 Queens Wharf, demonstrates that proposals with larger numbers of units offer the best opportunity for creating new units with long-term affordability.

This proposal at 158 Borough Drive will provide 645 homes in Scarborough, with at least 33% of those affordable and the inclusion of 2- and 3-bedroom units. In addition, a daycare will serve the community. The location near the existing Scarborough RT as well as the future Scarborough subway and Ellesmere BRT, its proximity to the library and Scarborough Town Centre alongside access to neighbouring parkland, make it an ideal site for building the mixed-income, inclusive, transit-accessible communities that the City should be aspiring to create in 2022.

The community consultation process to date has involved two public meetings and a working group that were, at times, contentious and included stereotypes about renters and those seeking affordable housing. The discriminatory and offensive language used by some nearby residents during these consultations required the City to place a warning on the video recordings. This is unacceptable and councillors must show leadership and not remain silent against this kind of NIMBY discrimination.

People living in affordable housing and workforce housing make valuable contributions to their communities. They are often the essential workers who keep our City running. The Housing Now program wants to provide safe and affordable housing for Torontonians - our leaders need to ensure that public meetings do not perpetuate harmful stereotypes against new affordable housing, nor confuse someone's income or financial circumstances with their value to our City.

We challenge the City of Toronto - and our City Councillors - to live up to the grounding principles that open our Official Plan: diversity, opportunity, connectivity, as well as demonstrating the leadership needed to resolve the housing crisis. This project at 158 Borough Drive must move forward quickly for Toronto and Scarborough Centre to live up to those ideals.

Sincerely,

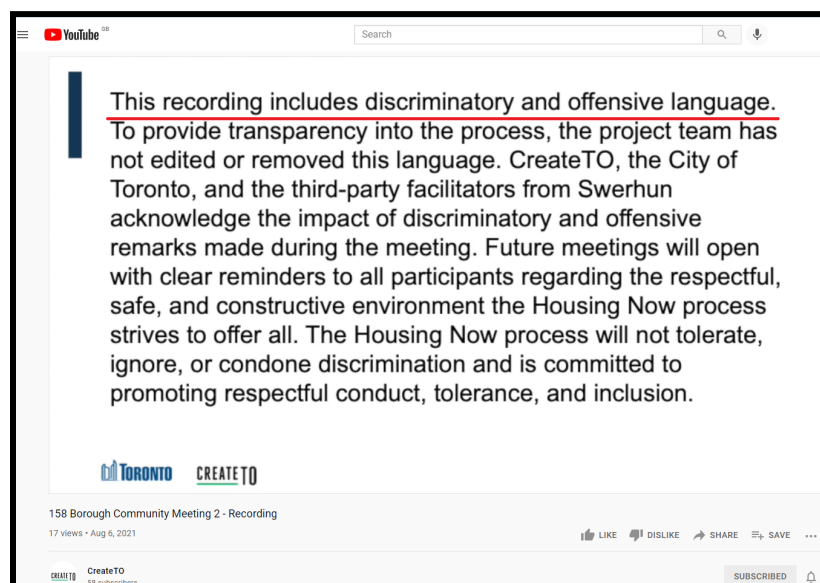
More Neighbours Toronto

Signed,

Pirawin Namasivayam

More Neighbours Volunteer

Scarborough Resident (Ward 21)



Community Meeting Recording - LINK - <https://youtu.be/PbHrOjQjark>