

Friday, June 23, 2023

RE: Item TE6.25

Dear members of the Toronto City Hall,

My name is Stephany Borrero Morales, I'm a tenant living in the building at 20 Cosburn Avenue, and I'm a member of the East York chapter of Toronto ACORN, a community union that fights for social and economic justice for working people. I am writing with regard to the proposed development at 16-26 Cosburn Avenue.

I am shocked that the proposal does not include any affordable housing. There are 299 units in the proposed building, 30 of which are rental replacement units, and none of which are affordable. While I'm pleased to see that many of my neighbours will be able to return to similar units after construction is complete, I am not one of them, as my partner and I have been living here for just 11 months. We love the neighbourhood, and have made a home for ourselves here, but sadly this demolition means that we need to move as soon as possible. If we wait too long there may not be any rental units left in the city that we can afford, in which case we wouldn't only be pushed out of this neighbourhood, but left without a place to live.

Many of those living in the building at 20 Cosburn Avenue are seniors. Canada's population of seniors over 85 years old is expected to triple in the next 25 years. With the supply of affordable rental housing rapidly dwindling, where will these seniors live, and who will care for them? The solution would be to bring in more young immigrants like myself and ensure they're supported with good jobs and affordable housing. But I'm working two jobs right now to pay a rent that takes up half my monthly income. How am I supposed to save? Or buy a house?

That this proposed development includes no affordable housing is unacceptable to this community. We left the lives we had in our homelands, only to come and live in a country that expects us to live in parkettes and statues, or humid basements with no sunlight. Working people are being pushed out of our neighbourhood, and proposals like this are the problem. Using the Community Benefit Charge to put affordable housing in this development is the least that should be done. I ask that the developer do the bare minimum here, and include affordable housing units in 16-26 Cosburn Avenue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephany Borrero Morales