



**ACORN Canada**

Uniting Communities for Justice

**Monday, June 26, 2023**

**RE: Item TE6.25**

Dear members of the Toronto City Council,

My name is Rodney Duce, and I'm a member of the East York chapter of Toronto ACORN. ACORN is an organization for working people—something that's necessary at a time when landlords, developers, bankers, and grocers are only looking out for their profits. Housing is a right, and that's what we're fighting for. I am writing with regard to the proposed development at 16-26 Cosburn Avenue.

I'm making this submission because I grew up in this neighbourhood—I've lived in the area for six years, and my family's been here even longer. It's a beautiful community; safe, family-oriented. I feel at home here, as opposed to other parts of the city that can sometimes make one feel left out and lonely. We have to make sure that future residents get this experience too, even if they're not making six figures. If you're a working person, you should be able to afford to live in your own community.

The need for affordable housing right now is paramount. We need *whole buildings* of affordable housing units to be built. 30% of new developments at a *minimum*. Affordable housing should not be an afterthought at a time when people in this city need housing *now*. It's a travesty that this proposed development does not include any affordable housing in it. If we want to call ourselves the best city in the world, we're definitely not showing it. The best city in the world wouldn't accept cash payments and parkettes over houses that people need to live in.

The Community Benefit Charge should be used for affordable housing. We don't need another cash payment to the city, we can't just trust a developer to build their own affordable housing elsewhere outside of our community, and statues and parkettes don't provide housing. This community needs deeply affordable housing now, or one one will be able to live here! I hope that the Councillors and the developer will make the right choice. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Rodney Duce**