

Monday, June 26, 2023

RE: Item TE6.25

Dear members of the Toronto City Council,

My name is Catherine Post, and I'm a member of the East York chapter of Toronto ACORN. ACORN is made up of low and moderate income families across Canada fighting for affordable housing and justice for working people.

I'm writing to you as a senior citizen concerned about this community I love. Across Toronto, the availability of affordable apartments for working people is rapidly dwindling. This development proposal for 16-26 Cosburn Avenue has no affordable housing units, or rent-geared-to-income housing. Why is that? In a major housing crisis, why are we allowing landlords and developers to skip out on building affordable units for people?

When I first came to Toronto in 1985, I lived in the East York neighbourhood. My first job was actually at Florida's on Pape. But in the past five years, this community has noticeably declined. More shops are closing. Rents are going up. And landlords don't care! As a person who rents on a fixed-income, I worry about the younger people in this city. How can someone waiting tables afford to live here? Or sweeping floors? Or bartending? People are juggling two or three jobs at a time just to pay rent. Outrageous rent!

We want inclusionary zoning. We want this building to include market units, affordable units, deeply affordable units, and rent-geared-to-income units. The City Council has a responsibility to respond to the *needs of the community*. I ask that you pressure the developer to include affordable housing in 16-26 Cosburn Avenue to satisfy the Community Benefit Charge. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Post