



**ACORN Canada**

Uniting Communities for Justice

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

**RE: Item TE6.25**

Dear members of the Toronto City Council,

My name is Christena Abbott, and I'm a member of the Toronto ACORN's East York chapter. ACORN is a community union, with over 160,000 low and moderate income members who are fighting for social and economic justice across the country.

I'm writing to you because I want the people who will be displaced by this development to be protected. While Toronto's rental replacement bylaw is supposed to protect tenants' right to return, oftentimes, tenants don't have a chance to go back, because there's no communication from the developer once the units are ready. This building is also home to a lot of seniors who need support. They need help getting to grocery stores, public transit, and places of worship. Displacement shouldn't leave them stuck in the boonies with no support. And inexplicably, aside from the rental replacement units, there's no affordable housing in the proposed development!

I used to live in this area for 15 years. I know Cosburn Avenue. I know Gowan Avenue. I remember walking down the street to the nearby grocery store, or walking down to the Danforth in nice weather to meet up with friends at a restaurant, or to enjoy the Taste of the Danforth. But rents in East York continue to go up every year, and without access to deeply affordable housing, more people will lose out on these experiences in our community. This area is also lucky to have great access to public transit—one bus down, or a short walk, and you're on the subway and can go anywhere in the city! If low and moderate income tenants are pushed out of the neighbourhood, they're not going to be able to live nearby because the rent is too high here!

This proposal includes 30 rental replacement units. But landlords haven't always honoured this in the past. We need the city to hold the landlord accountable, and make sure that they commit to better communication with existing tenants and ensure their right to return is protected. We also desperately need affordable housing. We know that the provincial government is on the side of builders, not tenants, and that they've taken away tenant protections like rent control. That's why we need the city to be an advocate for tenants, and pressure the developer to include deeply affordable housing in the new building. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Christena Abbott**