



Thursday June 15, 2022

MM7.20 - Relocation of Proposed Modular Housing and Designation of 175 Cumber

Dear Members of Council:

The Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association (BCNA) is a non-partisan, incorporated non-profit association that serves over 1800 households, including the senior citizens of 175 Cumber Ave who are part of our membership.

During the pandemic a decision was made to place modular supportive housing at Willowdale Manor Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation and Cumber Lodge Long Term Care. The seniors at Willowdale Manor are not digitally savvy and a majority, who do not speak English as a primary language, were not engaged in any meaningful or accessible way. Further, there has never been a consultation with the residents and families residing at Cumber Lodge.

Previously, Council decided to approve the procurement months before notice to the public, and seek a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) to remove protections on the site which had designated it for seniors only. The Province of Ontario denied the MZO after considering the location, the fact that construction had occurred prior to any consultation, and the presence of vulnerable seniors living on the site and adjacent long-term care facility.

Rather than assembling the facility on one of 50 alternative sites highlighted by Abi Bond the Housing Director, the previous Council decided to put the modular components into storage and sought to remove the seniors' site specific protections at the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). Instead of building the modular facility on a different location, Council placed the components in storage at a cost of now \$77,000 per month. To date this has cost the City over \$1 million, and could more than double to \$2 million with cumulative rental fees, and the OLT appeal costs.

Given Abi Bond, Executive Director of the Housing Secretariat has now had three years to scope 50 alternative sites that she publicly highlighted to us I am sure there is one that does not have pre-existing zoning protections for senior citizens on it.

With respect to the proposed park, I would like to point out that our neighborhood which has been identified as severely parkland deficient, which rising intensification of the Yonge Corridor would prefer that our cherished greenspace that we have all enjoyed with picnics and community activities, is formally recognized for what it is, a public park.

As you know June is Seniors Month, and seniors deserve to live with dignity and respect. They deserve to live in safety, certainty and security. I personally believe it is unfair that for the last

three years, an 86-year-old man and 300 of his tenant neighbors had to live with insecurity, building signs, organizing seniors, and now bussing themselves downtown to protest, and literally beg you as Councilors to show an ounce of compassion.

Please do not remove the pre-existing zoning protections on the site for seniors only, and relocate the site. If both motions fail, we will continue to work as a community to stand up for our neighborhoods most vulnerable elderly residents at the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Respectfully,

Nathan Gomes
President, Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association

cc. Lily Cheng, Councilor Ward 18