



META

Mimico Estates Tenant Association

April 26, 2023

Deputation to the Planning and Housing Committee Item PH 3.8 April 27, 2023
On behalf of Mimico Estates Tenants' Association

FEWER HOMES, BUILT SLOWER

First I will commend our Chief Planner on his thorough report attached to this item. I will add my blunt, unvarnished opinion to it, which I have too long suppressed.

We, who care about our City have tried to work on housing solutions with our Province as partners long enough. In return, we have been abandoned, blamed for its own deficits, kept in the dark about secret negotiations, and subsequent decisions about the future of our City – all without any consultation.

We (our City staff) have delivered more than we promised in approvals of building applications to ensure the housing of our most vulnerable citizens and then been stymied in our efforts by a lack of promised funds.

After all that, our own funding sources have been devastated when Provincial promises of funding instead became another reach into our own pockets giving away our own sources to developers.

On top of that, we discover that the numbers of new housing units promised by our Ontario government cannot be built according to those who do the building.

Another broken promise.

We are still supposed to take care of business on our end during the greatest building growth in our history with only 25 Councillors.

You deserve medals.

With all this, we are asked for “A Pledge” to support its questionable ambitions.
To create a community for social interaction, networking and enhancement of our Neighborhood and to communicate with the Landlord in one voice for the betterment of the quality of life for the tenants of Mimico Estates

The bald truth is that we cannot support what we do not know. The truth is this a failing Provincial plan trying to find a sucker to blame it on. The correct name for Bill 23 is indeed "Fewer Homes, Built Slower".

We appeal to this committee to "man up". I can use that euphemism because I am a woman and an elder.

Stop allowing the tail to wag the dog. Remember your fairy tales. The Emperor's New Clothes comes to mind.

Say it out loud. This emperor has no clothes.

How many broken promises does it take for us to figure out that trust has been broken. The Ontario line is over budget, under time and it doesn't yet know how it will end. Likewise, promises to keep hands off the Green Belt have been forgotten. Our heritage has been abandoned. Our housing and Official Plans have been altered by the week erasing millions of dollars of work and a vision built over decades.

How many broken promises will it take before we say enough? I repeat, "We have played nice and where did it get us?"

And, it's all being executed by a government in power supported by a little over 20% of the eligible voters.

Repeating a wish again and again and again does not make it so. It is certainly not building nearly enough homes for our current community never mind those who are coming.

Bills on top of Bills; there's 23 and 27 and the failed Eglinton Crosstown – all trying to correct mistakes -- is no way to plan our future. All this while the most vulnerable are housed on the streets and reno- and demo-victions are throwing seniors out on the street or putting our elders in financial jeopardy as repayment for their lifetimes of contributions to our City.

The current Provincial whim is to fix employment shortages by creating trades schools and fast tracked nursing certification.

I wonder where they will live?

This province has abandoned Affordable Housing funding.

We have enough brainpower here at City Hall to figure a way to prevail. Our Federal Government is as we speak investigating the proposed devastation of our Green Belt, one of our mayoral candidates is trying to keep our beloved Ontario Place open for all by proposing to withhold City Land permissions to keep an expensive spa at bay and keep our park open to all.

I will close by referencing Joanie Mitchell's Pave Paradise – Put up a parking lot. The Ontario Place hugely expensive parking lot will be underground and paid for by the taxpayer. What about investments for housing?

We cannot make this pledge.

We must protect our housing for all. We cannot -- not after seeing the secrecy-- and not after being screwed already and with a likelihood of more of the same to come.

I am happy to entertain any questions if you dare.

Starr Smith
Tenant and Seniors' Advocate

Chair, Mimico Estates Tenants' Association
Director, Mimico Lakeshore Community Network
Member, Five-Year Re-evaluation RentSafeTO et al. pledge in any form.