



PO Box 157
Toronto PO C, ON
M6J 3M9

t 416.533.9372
f 416.533.7867
www.theredwood.com

July 22, 2024

Dear Members of the Scarborough Committee of Adjustment

RE: File Number A0139/24SC re 777 Victoria Park Avenue

The Redwood provides programs and services to support women and children to live and thrive without abuse, homelessness and poverty. We work for social change through learning, collaboration and advocacy.

The Redwood supports plans to advance the construction of affordable purpose-built rental housing at 777 Victoria Park Avenue as part of the City of Toronto's Housing Now Initiative in support of new mixed-use, mixed-income communities on City-owned lands.

In late 2023, thanks to generous support from Mahogany Properties, in partnership with the City of Toronto, some of our most vulnerable women and children finally have a safe place to call home.

The pandemic has worsened the situation for survivors of domestic violence. The chronic shortage of affordable housing and the soaring cost of living makes it impossible for survivors to get out and stay out of an abusive home. Those who do manage to find a shelter bed soon discover that there is nowhere to go after their stay. Trapped and with nowhere to go, more continue to suffer behind closed doors.

But now, thanks to the Construction of affordable rental Homes at 777 Victoria Park Avenue initiative, more survivors will finally have their own homes. Mahogany Properties alongside the City of Toronto is committed to and continues to break the cycle of homelessness.

This brand-new build will meet survivors' needs, providing affordable rental units, and security. As a purpose-built rental, it has been designed with amenities in mind, like a new childcare facility and community spaces, with transit, schools, parks and shopping all close by.

To The Redwood, this initiative is more than just apartments. It also helps free up shelter space in our sector when turn-away rates have never been higher. This level of housing crisis in Toronto and across Canada is a Call to Action for City Council to expedite the Housing Now project at 777 Victoria Park Avenue for the city to realize a significant number of new affordable rental homes that will remain in public ownership, and affordable in perpetuity. This project cannot face delays, as the impact is dire to our mission. We need this housing now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Abi Ajibolade (She/Her)

Executive Director

The Redwood | A safe haven for women and children fleeing abuse

aajibolade@theredwood.com