

City of Toronto, City Council
Attn: Sylvia Przedziedcki, Manager.
RE: File number A0139/24SC;
777 Victoria Park, Hearing Date July 17th

To whom it may concern,

For 60 years, Good Shepherd has responded to the needs of our communities, providing person-centered health, housing and human services in the Greater Hamilton and Toronto (ON) areas, and most recently the Niagara Region. Good Shepherd services include emergency food and clothing; emergency shelters for individuals and families; transitional housing and education for youth; hospice palliative care; community mental health programs; and supportive housing programs.

Good Shepherd is active members of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness, Toronto Mental Health and Addiction Supportive Housing Network, FOCUS Toronto tables facilitated by the United Way and Toronto Police Services, and are members of the City of Toronto's Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee. **We are deeply aware of the 10,627 actively unhoused individuals estimated by the City of Toronto** (City of Toronto, Shelter System Flow Data, June 2024) and that there are over 14,000 people waiting for access to supportive housing. (The Access Point). We are also aware that the development of housing, and transition from homeless to permanent / supportive housing has begun to slow in recent months.

Good Shepherd urges that solutions for the development and construction of affordable housing are driven forward in a timely manner. We are in support of the construction of the affordable rental housing proposed by Mahogany Management at 777 Victoria Park Avenue as part of the City of Toronto's Housing Now Initiative, as a solution to the housing crisis we are experiencing within our community.

777 Victoria Park is poised to house hundreds of citizens of Toronto, providing much needed affordable rental and supportive housing options and retail spaces within an area that is accessible by transit and within walking distance of important amenities such as grocery stores.

All levels of government are prioritizing people over vehicles in major transit corridors. The City of Toronto must prioritize human rights such as housing and the needs of our community and support projects such as 777 Victoria Park.

Sincerely,



Colleen Lamond
Chief Operating Officer