

July 22nd, 2024

Re: A0139/24SC- Advancing the Construction of Affordable Rental Homes at 777 Victoria Park Avenue, Hearing Date July 17th

Dear Toronto City Council,

I am writing this letter to provide the support of LOFT Community Services for the advancement of construction of affordable pre-built rental housing at 777 Victoria Park Avenue as part of the City of Toronto's Housing Now Initiative, supporting new mixed-use, mixed-income communities on City-owned lands.

Since 1953, LOFT has offered dignity and hope to individuals with complex challenges. We are one of the largest community service providers in Ontario, supporting people facing a combination of mental health, physical health and substance use challenges, poverty, and/or homelessness. We build customized supports that specifically address a person's needs and offer them for as long as they're needed. With our partners, we're proactive in finding solutions to community challenges. By doing so, we're able to better reach individuals who fall through the gaps of our social and healthcare systems. LOFT truly believes in our vision that together, we can all live successfully in our community.

LOFT strongly supports the stated plans for the land to remain in public ownership in perpetuity through a 99 year land lease. Furthermore, the site's inclusion of a range of rental homes, mixed-use retail and community spaces at-grade, and a new child-care facility will help ensure that the site at 777 Victoria Park Avenue will be developed as a mixed-use complete community. 777 Victoria Park, aims to create housing that is close to transit, which is a Housing Now priority and benefits many LOFT clients as they do not own vehicles and therefore do not need parking spaces. LOFT has seen first hand the positive impacts on communities of this type of model and advocate for it to move forward.

The housing crisis in Toronto and across Canada is at an all time high and we need solutions. LOFT is highly requesting that City Council expedite the Housing Now project at 777 Victoria Park Avenue and to realize how a significant number of new affordable rental homes that will remain in public ownership, and are affordable in perpetuity will positively impact those who need it most within our communities in the City of Toronto.



Debra Walko

VP Client Care & Experience

Pronouns (She / Her / Herself)

T 416-979-1994 EXT #2053 | F 416-979-3038

15 Toronto Street 9th Floor, Toronto, ON M5C 2E3