

July 22, 2024

Toronto City Council
Attn: Sylwia Przezdziecki, Manager
Re: 777 Victoria Park

To whom it may concern,


We are writing to offer our strong support for Mahogany Management's plans to advance the construction of affordable rental homes at 777 Victoria Park Avenue. Developmental Services Ontario Toronto Region (DSO TR) is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), we are housed at Surrey Place Centre. DSO TR helps people to connect to ministry funded services and supports in Toronto. DSO housing navigation assists people with developmental disabilities to explore and where possible, access community-based housing outside of the developmental service sector. It is often greatly difficult for people with developmental disabilities to achieve goals of independently living, due in no small part to a lack of suitable and affordable housing options in Toronto.

As a Housing Navigator, I have closely observed Mahogany Management's work since 2019. Over the years, I have had an opportunity to interact with members of Mahogany Management's team and community partners, allowing me to gain valuable insights into their exemplary practices in building and operating affordable rental housing that is inclusive of vulnerable populations, including those living with a developmental disability.

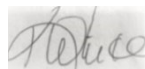
DSO TR is highly supportive of the City of Toronto's aims to create new mixed-use, mixed-income communities on City-owned land, through initiatives such as Housing Now. The project at 777 Victoria Park Avenue includes plans for the land to remain in public ownership in perpetuity, and for affordability of the new rental homes to be protected in perpetuity, the value of which cannot be overstated.

There are many, including vulnerable populations such as the one DSO TR represents, who are counting on the City of Toronto and its various partners to address their housing needs as a matter of urgency. Given the acute nature of the housing crisis facing our city, we need more "Housing Now". Further delays must not be tolerated. We hope the project at 777 Victoria park will be expedited accordingly.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Shannan
Housing Navigator DSO TR
Developmental Services Ontario - Surrey Place



Karen White
Director DSO TR
Developmental Services Ontario - Surrey Place