

October 4, 2024

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

My name is Dr. Prentiss Dantzler, and I am an Associate Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of the Housing Justice Lab at the University of Toronto. I am writing on behalf of a consortium of grassroots organizations and community advocates who are committed to enhancing the well-being of low-income and marginalized communities across Toronto. As a longtime scholar of North American housing and community development policy, I urge you to rethink your interests in **214-230 Sherbourne Street**.

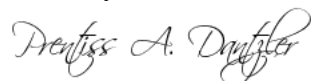
In March 2021, City Council directed staff to seek funding for the acquisition or expropriation of this property for **deeply affordable and supportive housing**, as part of the City's efforts to revitalize the Dundas and Sherbourne neighborhood. A 2019 City report underscored the strategic importance of this acquisition, reaffirmed in a 2022 report focused on Dan Harrison and Housing Now objectives. However, the future of this crucial site is now uncertain, as the Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC) recently forwarded item TE16.5 to City Council without a recommendation. Moreover, condominium sales have stalled, and this proposal does not meet the actual needs of the community or the city at large.

I respectfully urge City Council to take the following actions:

1. Reject Kingsett Capital's proposal to build a 46-storey condo on this site.
2. Move forward with acquiring 214-230 Sherbourne for social housing to address Toronto's severe housing crisis alongside a capital fund for repairs to stabilize and improve existing units.
3. Hold Kingsett Capital accountable for obstructive business practices that delay reinvestment opportunities due to stalled development schedules and redevelopment efforts to maximize profits.
4. Prioritize long-term community well-being and affordable housing over short-term corporate interests coordinated with supportive services which are already currently practiced within the community.

It is imperative that the City explore more diverse options specifically aimed at affordable housing. As a housing researcher operating within this area, I visibly see the need for more adequate support for families within this community. Should you have any other questions, feel free to contact me at urbanagendallc@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Dr. Prentiss A. Dantzler, Ph.D.