

October 8, 2024

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2



RE: Deputation on the Proposed Development TE16.5 - 214-230 Sherbourne Street - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Application

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Moss Park Coalition to express our deep concern regarding the proposed rezoning for luxury condominiums at 214-230 Sherbourne Street. This site has previously been identified by the City as a critical location for deeply affordable and supportive housing, a decision that aligns with the long-term needs of Moss Park's most vulnerable residents.

City Council has already approved a motion for affordable and supportive housing on this site, recognizing its potential to revitalize the neighborhood in a manner that benefits those who are most at risk. However, City staff are now recommending a rezoning that contradicts this earlier decision by paving the way for luxury condominiums, which would accelerate gentrification and displace those who rely on this area for affordable housing.

Moss Park is in desperate need of more deeply affordable housing. The current proposal threatens to eliminate one of the few opportunities to meet that need. It is not simply about a single development; it is about protecting the future of a community that has long been home to some of Toronto's most marginalized individuals.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the staff recommendations and reject this rezoning application. Instead, we ask that Council explore options for acquiring the site to fulfill the original vision for affordable and supportive housing. This is not only a matter of policy alignment but also one of equity and justice for the residents of Moss Park who have long awaited meaningful investments in their community.

The future of this neighborhood is at stake, and we ask that you prioritize the needs of the people who live here over market pressures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Anderson
Moss Park Coalition