



June 10, 2024

City Clerk's Office
Nancy Martins, Planning and Housing Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON
M5H 2N2

Attention Councillor Gord Perks, Chair, Planning and Housing Committee

Re: Planning and Housing Committee Item PH13.8
Launching the Rental Housing Supply Program

Dear Councillor Gord Perks and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for the recommendations outlined in report PH13.8. These recommendations exemplify the innovative thinking we need to expedite the construction of affordable housing.

I am particularly pleased to see an emphasis on adding rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units, a crucial element often overlooked in housing discussions. For many vulnerable individuals, even rents at 80% of average market rent remain financially unmanageable. It is refreshing to see the City changing its policy to better assist those in need.

Good Shepherd Ministries, which has been serving homeless and marginalized individuals since 1963, has witnessed the barriers people face in accessing housing. We see firsthand the struggles low-income households endure, including food insecurity. Increasing affordable housing and providing rent relief are bold steps in the right direction.

Sincerely,



Aklilu Wendaferew, MSW, RSW
Executive Director