



September 24, 2024

RE: PH15.3 - 35 Bellevue Avenue - Zoning By-law Amendment - Decision Report - Approval

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

About More Neighbours

More Neighbours Toronto is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase the ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that both dominates Toronto's politics and has created increased costs and environmental burden for a new generation of aspiring residents.

Position on Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendment Application

On behalf of More Neighbours Toronto, I am excited to express our strong support for the Zoning By-law amendment that will enable the development of 78 new affordable rent-geared-to-income units at 35 Bellevue Avenue in Kensington Market. The speed at which this project is moving forward is a fantastic example of how quickly we can create solutions to address Toronto's housing crisis, and we are hopeful that this approach can be replicated many times over with the help of provincial and federal funding.

While 78 units is a significant achievement, the housing need in Toronto is immense, and this project sets a powerful precedent for future developments. The swift approval and the goal to begin construction by the end of 2024 reflect the City's strong commitment to providing affordable housing, and we are eager to see more projects follow suit.

Located in the heart of vibrant Kensington Market, and along two major streetcar routes, this development will not only offer much-needed affordable homes but also provide residents with excellent access to transit and local amenities. Additionally, St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society is a well-established and trusted housing provider who will be partnering with the Kensington Market Community Land Trust (KMCLT) to ensure that these homes will provide stability and crucial support to individuals experiencing homelessness and those in need of affordable housing.

More Neighbours Toronto wholeheartedly supports this initiative and applauds the City for its leadership in delivering such a timely and impactful project. We are confident that this development will enhance the Kensington Market community and hope to see many more like it in the near future.

Sincerely,

Zakerie Farah

More Neighbours Toronto