

Monday, September 16, 2024

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: Planning Application Number: 22 204780 STE 13 OZ

My name is Kim Koyama. I am writing to you on behalf of Japanese Canadians for Social Justice, a group that aims to build community support for human rights and social justice. JCSJ is joining the call for the City of Toronto to reject the proposal by Kingsett Capital to build a 46 storey condo at 214-230 Sherbourne. We are calling on the City instead to take the necessary action to acquire this property for social housing.

Our history as Japanese Canadians is one of mass displacement by systemic government forces. We were forced from our homes into homelessness and insecurity, warehoused on the exhibition grounds of Vancouver, and shipped to internment camps, so our community understands what it means to be without a home. Our history as Japanese Canadians also includes the fight for redress as well as for human rights. These rights include the right to live, the right to basic shelter and the right to housing.

The shelters are full. There is no where to go. People are being left to die on our streets without housing. It is not acceptable that the profit of development companies be allowed to take precedence over human life. The City should not be doing business as usual with Kingsett Capital, which knowingly prevented the City from building much needed social housing at this corner. The City should take the necessary steps, including expropriation if necessary, to ensure that the public good is actually prioritized over profit.

If a condo is built on this site instead of social housing it will only worsen the extremely dire situation for people in this community. It will force dislocation and displacement rather than help prevent it. The City of Toronto has an opportunity to take concrete action in the face of the devastating housing and homelessness crisis. We call on you at the Toronto and East York Community Council to reject the proposal by Kingsett for a condo development, and direct staff to move forward with the necessary action to acquire 214-230 Sherborne for the purpose of social housing. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Kim Koyama

[REDACTED]  
(Ward 13)

on behalf of Japanese Canadians for Social Justice

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