

70 communications from Residents of Woods Manor Toronto Senior Housing Corporation with similar text were received on April 7, 2025:

**Re: The Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025 EC19.2**

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to you as a senior citizen and a deeply concerned resident of New Toronto, where a proposed shelter at 66 Third Street would be located, just steps away from my home. The impact of this shelter, not just on me but on other vulnerable community members, is deeply troubling, and I feel compelled to speak out against this plan.

The idea that the City plans to place a shelter in a parking lot on a small residential street makes no sense to me. It's not the right location, and I fear it will have a detrimental effect on my quality of life and well-being. I feel that my right to live in peace and safety is being overlooked, and the community's needs-particularly those of vulnerable seniors-are being overlooked.

The more I learn about the shelter, the more fearful I become. New Toronto already suffers from the second-highest crime rate in South Etobicoke. Adding this shelter to an area already plagued by crime is a serious mistake. Shelters have been linked to increased violence, crime, drug activity, and loitering. From 2011 to 2021, violent incidents in shelters rose by 283%, and critical incidents have grown fivefold. I fear that placing this shelter here will only escalate these problems in our already struggling neighborhood.

Many of the residents of these shelters face complex mental health and addiction issues. This is not the type of environment I feel comfortable living next to, especially as a senior. I already experience challenges related to mobility and accessing services, and the addition of a shelter without proper safeguards and services to support both shelter residents and the surrounding community is distressing.

This shelter is supposed to be a harm reduction facility, which means drug paraphernalia will be distributed without medical supervision, further endangering the safety of everyone nearby. Many shelter residents struggle with addiction, and I am terrified that this will push drug use, drug dealers and the violence that brings into our parks, schoolyards, and along the Lake Shore walking trail. This is not just a concern; it's a threat to my safety.

Adding to my concerns is the lack of infrastructure and services in New Toronto to properly and safely support a shelter. New Toronto's health, mental health, emergency, and policing services are operating at or beyond capacity. The nearest police station is 7 km away, and the nearest hospital is 5.8 km away. As a senior, my ability to access healthcare, support services, and even basic needs is already strained, with local services like the LAMP Community Health Centre having a waitlist of 6-8 months for even the most basic care.

I, along with over 2,600 residents and businesses, oppose this shelter. We are calling for a minimum 500-meter buffer between shelters and schools, daycares, and seniors' facilities to protect the safety of our community.

I cannot overstate how fearful I am of the negative consequences this shelter will bring. I also feel that my right to peaceful enjoyment of my home and neighborhood is being completely disregarded. I don't want to live in a community where I feel unsafe in my own home or when walking in my own neighborhood. I am worried about the increased crime, the potential for violence, and the disruption to my daily life. The City's failure to provide clear, transparent information about how they will address these issues only deepens my concerns.

Please take into account the real, tangible impacts this shelter will have on residents like myself who are already living with the anxiety of an increasingly unsafe neighborhood. I ask that you respect the concerns of seniors and all residents who are fearful of the consequences of this shelter being placed in our community. I no longer feel confident that my home will be a safe space, and that is deeply troubling to me as a senior who deserves to live out my later years aging in place comfortably and independently, in peace and security.

Sincerely,

70 Residents of Woods Manor  
Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation (TSHC)  
Etobicoke, ON