

**From:** [Wojtek Biczysko](#)  
**To:** [Executive Committee](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] 2025.EX24.4  
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Wojtek Biczysko  
New Toronto Resident

City of Toronto  
Attention: Mayor Olivia Chow  
Chair, Executive Committee

Toronto City Hall  
[100 Queen Street West](#)  
[Toronto, ON](#)  
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Re: Opposition to Proposed Shelter at 66 Third Street and the Redevelopment of Fifth and Sixth Street Parking Lots

Dear Mayor Chow and Executive Committee Members,

I am writing to express strong opposition to both the proposed homeless shelter at 66 Third Street and the planned redevelopment of the public parking lots located on Fifth and Sixth Streets in New Toronto. These decisions, taken together, represent a significant shift in land use that poses serious risks to the safety, cohesion, and long-term economic health of the community.

As a resident of Third Street, I will be directly affected by this decision. The proposed shelter would fundamentally alter the character of my home and the surrounding neighbourhood. What is now a quiet, family-oriented street, close to schools, parks, and seniors' residences, would be drastically changed by the presence of a large-scale emergency shelter. This is not just a policy issue for me; it is personal, and it impacts the safety, stability, and liveability of my daily life.

New Toronto has already absorbed a disproportionate share of emergency shelters, supportive housing, and deeply subsidized units relative to other Toronto neighbourhoods, particularly compared to more affluent areas like The Kingsway. The further concentration of social services in this area will only deepen existing disparities and create ongoing challenges for local businesses, residents, and vulnerable populations alike.

These proposals also threaten essential community infrastructure. The parking lots in question serve as critical support for local businesses, churches, school events, and community gatherings. Their removal would undermine the commercial viability of the area and reduce accessibility for seniors, families, and people with disabilities who rely on that parking. The public benefits of these lots are well-established and should not be overlooked.

We are also concerned that the community engagement around the shelter at 66 Third Street and the planned developments on the Fifth and Sixth Street parking lots hasn't been fair or balanced. It often felt like decisions had already been made, and that public input was just a formality. In addition, some of the people involved in running the consultations have past ties to shelter and housing advocacy, which raises questions about possible conflicts of interest. We're not going into detail now, but we may need to address this more fully later.

These decisions are not being made in a vacuum. New Toronto residents have consistently voiced support for mixed-income development, equitable distribution of city services, and true inclusion, not policies that cluster poverty and instability in one part of the city while shielding others. Good planning demands balance, transparency, and accountability. These proposals fail on all three counts.

I urge City Council and staff to reconsider these plans and to conduct a comprehensive review of shelter and housing placements across the city. Future decisions must reflect a fair and inclusive process, one that genuinely listens to local residents and treats all communities with respect.

Sincerely,

Wojtek Biczysko