

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing as a parent of two young children—ages 4 and 7—who recently moved to this neighbourhood. My family came here after living near Allan Gardens, where we faced daily concerns about addiction and mental health safety issues. Our move was not just a change of address—it was a deliberate decision to give our kids a safer, more stable place to grow up.

That's why I am deeply alarmed by the city's current approach to developing housing on city-owned land, especially as it relates to agenda item EX24.4 and the proposal to use the Green P parking lots at 66 Third Street, 120 Sixth Street, and 140 Fifth Street for an emergency homeless shelter and affordable housing.

We know firsthand how complicated homelessness and addiction are. We have taught our children empathy and compassion. As a family, we regularly brought food, clothing, and hygiene supplies to the encampments in Allan Gardens. But we also witnessed the real and immediate impacts of poorly planned shelters and harm reduction sites: property crime, drug use in public spaces, and a dramatic increase in anti-social and unpredictable behaviour. My children and I have been chased by an intoxicated shelter user, threatened by someone likely under the influence of illegal drugs, and have found pipes and needles in play areas. In Allan Gardens, discarded needles and drug paraphernalia in playgrounds and parks became a constant, terrifying worry, and we are already finding this in New Toronto without a shelter and an additional harm reduction site.

It is shocking that the city is now considering placing a shelter that distributes harm reduction kits—including needles and pipes—just steps from playgrounds, wading pools staffed by teenagers, daycares, schools, and a building full of vulnerable seniors. Facilities like these, without careful planning, bring real safety and quality-of-life issues for families and local businesses. We moved here specifically to escape these dangers. Now, the city is proposing to bring them right to our doorstep, beside single-family homes and overlooking the yards of children and the balconies of seniors.

Cost savings cannot be the only factor in choosing locations for these challenging facilities. You know these sites are difficult for communities. We need honest conversations about the risks, not empty reassurances. The concerns I am raising are not hypothetical—they are based on lived experience, shared by many families like ours. On top of this, like so many in our community, we rely on the Green P parking lots for daily life: running errands with our kids, supporting local businesses, and participating in

community activities. Losing these lots will make it even harder for families, seniors, and those with mobility needs to stay active and connected in our neighbourhood.

I urge you: do not use 66 Third Street, 120 Sixth Street, and 140 Fifth Street for emergency shelter and affordable housing. Toronto needs a fair and balanced approach—one that provides real homes and comprehensive support, not just temporary shelters that repeat the same mistakes. Please don't sacrifice the safety, accessibility, and well-being of New Toronto's families for the sake of expediency.

Our community deserves thoughtful planning and a genuine commitment to both compassion and public safety. Please listen to the voices of the families who live here. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
The Cloubt Family
New Toronto Residents