



REXDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC

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LOCATED IN THE REXDALE COMMUNITY HUB
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VIA EMAIL: phc@toronto.ca

April 9, 2025

Planning and Housing Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 (9:30AM)
Committee Room 1, City Hall/Video Conference
100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: PH20.1 - 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent - City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment -
Decision Report - Approval**

The Rexdale Community Legal Clinic provides free legal services to North Etobicoke community members living on low incomes and has done so for over 40 years. Our clinic's areas of legal practice have evolved in different ways to best respond to local needs, and we currently practice in the areas of housing, social assistance/income maintenance, employment and immigration. We help tenants fight against unlawful evictions; access life-sustaining income support; uphold employee rights at work; and obtain immigration status and reunify families. We are committed to supporting individual clients, as well as to broadening access to justice through community development, public legal education and law reform. Since 2012, we have been located in the Rexdale Community Hub in Toronto, sharing space and collaborating with other community agencies.

We write to express our strong support of the proposed supportive housing development at 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent. Such efforts are vital not only for a more just and inclusive city, but also in terms of having a direct impact on the clients our office serves.

Eviction cases currently represent the highest demand for our services. On a daily basis, our office sees the devastating impact of eviction and displacement on individuals, families and communities. This is reflective of an unaffordability crisis, poor rent control laws in Ontario, low social assistance and minimum wage rates, and the ever increasing commodification/financialization of housing in Canada. It is also important to note that there is a new light rail transit line being built through our catchment area and we at the clinic are already concerned about the potential, related impacts of gentrification, increased unaffordability and displacement of long term residents.

Increasingly, we do not have adequate answers when clients who are facing eviction ask us: "where will I go?". While it is essential for Ontario's affordable housing stock to

be protected through efforts such as the abolishment of vacancy decontrol and better protections against eviction, it is also vital that new housing developments continue to be built – especially those that are affordable, accessible and have a specific purpose of supporting marginalized tenants.

Should there be any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact me.

Yours very truly,

REXDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yodit Edemariam', is positioned above the printed name.

Yodit Edemariam (she / her)
Director of Legal Services
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic

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