



Ms. Olivia Chow
Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
mayor_chow@toronto.ca

RE: Deputation to the Planning and Housing Committee – Support for City Council to amend City of Toronto Zoning By-law 569-2013 for the lands municipally known as 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

On behalf of **Neighbourhood Pods TO**, a collective of grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates committed to addressing Toronto's housing crisis and advancing equitable, community-informed solutions, we write in strong support of **Item PH20.1 – 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent - City-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment**.

We urge the Committee and Toronto City Council to approve the proposed amendment to Zoning By-law 569-2013 to permit the development of a **4-storey (15-metre, excluding mechanical penthouse) residential apartment building** consisting of **51 new affordable rental dwelling units with wraparound supports** in the **Rexdale neighbourhood**.

This proposal directly addresses our city's urgent housing needs and supports vulnerable populations who face significant barriers to accessing safe, stable, and affordable housing. The project aligns with the City of Toronto's stated housing priorities and delivers on its equity commitments by ensuring dignified housing for residents in historically underserved communities.

As we continue to experience the impacts of a worsening housing and shelter crisis, it is critical to respond with action-oriented policies and inclusive developments such as this. At the **March 27, 2025 City Council meeting**, Council adopted **Item 2025.CC28.2 – Identifying and Addressing Pressures in the Refugee and Emergency Shelter System** ([link](#)). This item acknowledged the structural and systemic inequities that disproportionately affect **Black and Indigenous residents**, including those navigating refugee claims or experiencing housing insecurity.

Approving Item PH20.1 is a necessary and urgent step to ensure the City delivers on its commitments. This development at 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent will expand the City's affordable rental stock and offer housing with wraparound supports to individuals who are too often excluded from traditional housing pathways.

We respectfully call on the Committee and Council to:

- Approve the proposed zoning amendment to facilitate the development at 7-9 Wardlaw Crescent.
- Recognize this project as an essential contribution to achieving housing equity in Rexdale and beyond.
- Continue to prioritize developments that reflect the City's commitment to reconciliation, anti-racism, and human rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued leadership in addressing Toronto's housing crisis.

Sincerely,



Walied Khogali Ali

On behalf of **Neighbourhood Pods TO**

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The Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO) embodies a consortium of grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates, all rallying under a unified mission to bolster the economic livelihoods and enhance the overall well-being of low-income individuals and communities across Toronto.
