



RE: 2025.PH23.3 Advancing Six Sites for the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS) - City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment and Six Zoning By-law Amendments - Decision Report – Approval

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

We are writing today to applaud the recommendations to approve zoning by-law amendments to allow building six new municipal shelters, particularly in Willowdale.

We want to make it clear that there are many of us who live in Willowdale that support shelters in our neighbourhood. There is clearly a housing crisis in Toronto, and Willowdale is no exception. We at Willowdale in Neighbourly Community (WINC), urge council to pass these rezonings without reducing the size of the buildings, as we cannot afford to have fewer beds.

We also urge council to approve more supportive housing. There are many organizations that have found that supportive housing costs the city even less than a bed in a shelter, a bunk in prison, or an inpatient bed.

As we have said before, we have seen the clear effects of not building enough housing in neighbourhoods, and how that has led to many of our neighbours without homes. If our city councillors care about safety for residents, as many say they do, we hope they see there is a strong connection between housing and safety and that increasing housing is necessary.

We call on the committee to not only approve the rezoning for these shelters, but also to build more supportive housing.

About Willowdale in Neighbourly Community (WINC)

We are a group of Willowdale residents informing, gathering, and mobilizing Willowdale residents around issues of housing and homelessness with the goal to shift policies and change systemic structures that ultimately creates thriving community for all.

Best,

Rachel Chen, on behalf of WINC