

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning and Housing](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Zoning Changes for 2535 Gerrard St. E – Opposition and Concerns
Date: July 14, 2025 10:05:03 AM

Naz Araghian

[REDACTED]

Date: July 15, 2025

City Planning Division
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
planning@toronto.ca

Re: Zoning Changes for 2535 Gerrard St. E – Opposition and Concerns

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of concerned residents of the Blantyre-Hunt Club community to formally object to the proposed zoning bylaw amendments and Official Plan changes related to the planned shelter at 2535 Gerrard Street East.

From the outset, this project has demonstrated a deeply flawed planning process. The City selected this site *in part because of its existing zoning compatibility for shelter use*. Now, months later, the City is requesting changes to that very zoning to allow it to proceed. This is a clear contradiction and reveals a troubling lack of foresight and transparency. If the site did not meet the required zoning, it should not have been identified or purchased for this use in the first place.

Further, the City has already expended significant public funds acquiring and preparing this site. Now, with the acknowledgment that zoning changes are necessary to proceed, taxpayers are being asked to absorb the costs of a mistake that should have been prevented through due diligence. This is financially irresponsible and reflects poor governance.

Beyond the procedural failures, the site itself is fundamentally ill-suited for a shelter. It is isolated, lacks adequate transit access, and is removed from critical wraparound services such as addiction treatment, mental health support, and job programs. The City's own best practices emphasize the importance of proximity to services for supportive housing and shelter success. The decision to push forward at 2535 Gerrard directly contradicts this guidance.

We urge the City to recognize that this is not simply a matter of paperwork or process - it is a question of ethics, planning integrity, and responsible use of public funds. The community is not opposed to shelters or to supporting those experiencing homelessness. What we oppose is a planning decision that undermines the very

principles the City claims to stand for.

We respectfully request that the City reject the proposed zoning changes and identify a more appropriate, service-connected location for this shelter—one that aligns with existing zoning, community needs, and fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Naz Araghian

On Behalf of the Blantyre-Hunt Club Residents' Association