

From: [Sebastian Tansil](#)
To: [Planning and Housing](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.PH23.3 on July 15, 2025 Planning and Housing Committee
Date: July 15, 2025 1:10:37 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 15, 2025 Planning and Housing Committee meeting on item 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

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Chair Councillor Perks and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of advancing the six municipal shelter sites containing approximately 420 new shelter beds identified within the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy.

My name is Sebastian Tansil and I am on the Board of the Kensington Market Community Land Trust. The Kensington Market Community Land Trust is a community initiative created to protect the social and economic diversity of our neighbourhood. We buy up property in our neighbourhood with the support of community bond financing and in partnership with the City of Toronto to keep both commercial and residential properties community owned and affordable forever.

With the rapid gentrification of our neighbourhood to speculative investors, we've observed that renters are being pushed out, food sellers are shutting down, and affordability generally has deteriorated. Quite simply put, the rent has become too damn high. The average wage in Toronto, especially among minimum wage jobs, have not kept up with the growth of average market rents.

This phenomena we are witnessing here in Kensington Market is observed in almost every neighbourhood across the city. A newly released survey from Toronto's Street Needs Assessment shows the number of homeless people in Toronto has more than doubled between the spring of 2021 and last fall in 2024. It is now estimated that 15,400 people were homeless in Toronto in October 2024, up from approximately 7,300 in April 2021. The report also says that there are 1,615 people living outdoors.

The reality is that none of us should expect this to get any better on its own.

Homelessness has become an emergency and a crisis of our making. Homeless shelters are a LAST line of defense for the most precariously housed. When our systems fail, shelters are the last resource in line to keep a roof over peoples' heads. And as any emergency service, the infrastructure isn't meant to be pretty and perfect. Just like a fire station or a hospital may not fit the built form of a neighbourhood, we shouldn't expect shelters to neatly fit itself into any neighbourhood perfectly. Members of the committee and city council must follow the data and should not act as gatekeepers for which neighbourhoods will have a shelter location and which neighbourhoods shouldn't. I urge all members of this committee today to listen to the policy advice of your own city staff and to approve the planned shelter locations. Now is not the time to be playing with emergency infrastructure that can mean life or death for our neighbours. Now is the time to stand with and take care of all our neighbours by approving any life saving resources we can offer them.

In solidarity,

Sebastian Tansil

Kensington Market Community Land Trust