

Re: PH23.3 – Support for Advancing Six Shelter Sites – Including 66-66Y Third Street

Dear Planning and Housing Committee,

On behalf of myself, Vanessa Keall-Vejar, Managing Director of CBASE, Co-Chair of the Gardens Lakeshore, and SEFGC, I write to express my strong support for the rezoning of six proposed shelter sites, particularly 66 Third Street in our community. In speaking with some of our growers and collective community organisers, they too are deeply concerned.

Toronto's homelessness crisis has deepened, with outdoor homelessness more than doubling since 2021. Local organizations like Haven on the Queensway, LAMP CHC and St.Margaret's already serve more individuals weekly than official counts suggest. These shelters are urgently needed to provide safety, stability, and dignity to unhoused residents—especially seniors—while broader affordable housing solutions are developed.

We urge Council to act swiftly. Delays not only risk lives but also leave critical capital funds unspent, compromising the City's ability to respond effectively and compassionately. Approving these sites is both a moral and practical imperative.

We look forward to continuing our support for 66 Third Street and to helping ensure this project succeeds for both shelter residents and the broader community.

Sincerely,
Ms. Vanessa Keall-Vejar