



September 17, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

To: Toronto East York Community Council Members, Mayor Olivia Chow

RE: TE25.3 1304-1318 King Street West and 143, 143a and 145 Cowan Avenue - Rental Housing Demolition Application - Decision Report - Approval

We stand in solidarity with Parkdale Housing Justice Network (PHJN) and the Parkdale community broadly; as such, are writing today to encourage members of this Committee ***to vote against the City Staff Report's recommendations*** to approve the rental demolition application noted above. We urge you to hear and amplify their message: this project is not about meeting community needs, but about advancing the interests of developers at the expense of long-time residents and affordable housing.

Parkdale is one of the few remaining neighbourhoods in Toronto where working-class people, newcomers, and families can still access some affordable rental housing. Approving this development accelerates the erosion of that affordability and displaces neighbours who have built their lives, families, and communities there. The Parkdale Housing Justice Network has been clear in consultations and in repeated engagement over the past two years: **this project is not wanted, and it does not meet the needs of the community.**

Parkdale Housing Justice Network's opposition to this project reflects a broader, city-wide problem: housing planning in Toronto too often occurs without meaningful community involvement. Pre-application meetings, public consultations, and statutory hearings are treated as procedural hurdles rather than genuine opportunities for democratic participation. Since 2022, this Council has approved 2,959 rental homes for demolition. When community members repeatedly voice opposition, and those voices are ignored, trust in local government is deeply undermined.

This is not simply a Parkdale issue. From Scarborough to Etobicoke, residents across Toronto are asking the same questions: Why are decisions about our neighbourhoods made in ways that prioritize the interests of capital over the human right to housing? Why do communities have so little real influence over the future of their homes?

Toronto City Councillors must do more than reject harmful developments; they must also push for housing solutions that actually serve communities. This means advancing and investing in non-market models—such as community land trusts, co-operative housing, and other permanently affordable, community-led initiatives—that keep housing out of the speculative

market and in the hands of the people who need it most. Like the recent plan to assist residents at 182 Jameson Ave to purchase their building and turn it into Co-op housing. Council has a responsibility to stand with tenants, prioritize affordable housing, and create processes that centre meaningful community decision-making rather than rubber-stamping displacement.

We respectfully ask that you reject this rental demolition and send a clear message that Toronto's communities deserve a genuine say in shaping their futures.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Blackwell, on behalf of The No Demovictions Team

CC: Parkdale Housing Justice Network