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**Deputation to City of Toronto, Planning and Housing Committee – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**Re: PH27.11: 125 Queensway – Official Plan Amendment – Appeal Report**

**From: Scarborough Community Renewal Organization -- Brenda Librecz and Jim Faught**

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We are representing Scarborough Community Renewal Organization. SCRO is an organization of engaged volunteers that works to connect, promote and renew Scarborough, through advocating and supporting economic prosperity, better planning, an enhanced natural environment, and complete and inclusive communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the staff report. **We support the recommendations of the Chief Planner and urge Council to recognize the serious problem that the City has in retaining land for Employment uses (JOBS) and do what is good for the economic health of Toronto by undertaking an Employment Land Retention Strategy.** Council needs to prioritize the retention of Employment lands much like it prioritizes the need for affordable housing – they both need each other – no job no housing.

As members of SCRO, we are speaking on this matter due to the serious and City-wide implications of such a request to redesignate employment lands within the South Etobicoke Employment Area at 125 Queensway. This 3.45-hectare site land is **adjacent to the Ontario Food Terminal**, a critical economic infrastructure. As outlined in the report – it is the only one in Canada and is strategically located to serve its important role providing food security for Ontario's residents province wide. In fact, Toronto's strong food manufacturing sector is integrated with the Ontario Food Terminal creating thousands of jobs. Putting a residential development at its doorstep is a bad decision with significant implications to Toronto and Ontario. There are many other locations that are not in Employment Areas that can be developed for housing. Employment Lands are not needed to achieve housing goals.

As the staff report has indicated our Employment lands are a scarce resource and have taken a beating over the last 20 years. The City needs those lands for our economic viability. South Etobicoke Employment is under threat and needs Council support – if it goes residential then the precedence is set for the other Employment Lands and then where will our residents work.

**SCRO is requesting Council to support the staff recommendation on all the redesignation reports on Planning & Housing today and to undertake a strategy to make Toronto competitive as a location for business by creating and implementing an Employment Land Retention Strategy.** The protection of Toronto's Employment Lands is a core element in the broader, multi-government strategies to invest in and strengthen Canada's industrial and manufacturing base, considering the significant trade challenges that threaten our economy. The City needs to act with urgency before it is too late.

Thank you for this opportunity, and we are happy to answer any questions.