



Deputation to City of Toronto, Planning and Housing Committee – January 22nd, 2026

Re: PH27.12: 1543-1551 Queensway, 66&76 Fordhouse Blvd – Official Plan Amendment Appeal Report

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

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.

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. The subject site is within one of the largest Employment Areas in Toronto with over 40,000 jobs and growing – the area is an exceptional business location. As noted in the report it has strong transportation access for goods movement hence it has attracted a diverse mix of manufacturing, distribution, service and transportation businesses. Retaining these lands for business/jobs is critical to the City's overall economic development. These lands are highly desirable for businesses seeking locations and for existing businesses to expand and grow.

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 existing and future businesses. 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 to be heard and we are happy to answer any questions.

Brenda Librecz, and Jim Faught, Scarborough Community Renewal Organization