



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

Re: PH27.10: 20 Leslie Street – Official Plan Amendment Appeal Report

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

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 approve the staff recommendations and to prioritize the retention of Employment Land Citywide.**

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 Eastern Employment Area. This area is widely recognized as a hub of Toronto's film and television industry, with production facilities and supportive commercial enterprises. The location speaks for itself – direct link to major movement corridors, DVP, Lakeshore Blvd and Gardiner Expressway as well ease of access to locational shoots in downtown, Port lands and right across the region.

Retaining these lands for business/jobs is critical to the City's overall economic development and supporting the strong film and television industry as it brings in \$2 billion in production investment. These lands are highly desirable for this industry and their supplier networks and retaining for the future of this important sector to Toronto will be critical.

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. The City needs those lands for existing and future businesses. The Eastern Employment Area is under threat and needs Council support – if it goes residential then the precedence is set for the other Employment Lands in this area and across the City.

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