

**From:** [Ryan Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Planning and Housing](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Perks](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor Myers](#); [Councillor Nunziata](#); [Councillor Crisanti](#); [Councillor Bradford](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2026.PH30.3 on May 7, 2026 Planning and Housing Committee  
**Date:** May 4, 2026 5:25:27 PM

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H30.3 - 3838 Bloor Street West (Women's Shelter site) - Official Plan and Zoning

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Ryan Friedman. I am here on behalf of **Faith in the City**.

I am writing today to express strong support for the proposed zoning and official planning amendments for a proposed women's shelter at 3838 Bloor Street West.

- A shelter is already a permitted use of this site.
- The proposed changes are consistent with the neighbourhood characteristics and the planning legislation.
- Shelter use also aligns with the Provincial Policy Statement, which calls for a full range of housing options in every community.
- These shelters are purpose-built and consistent with urban design guidelines and the neighbourhood context.
- This shelter is 500 m from a subway station, making it accessible and reducing the need for car dependency and parking requirements.
- This shelter will provide safety, dignity, and pathways to permanent housing for women.
- As of October 2024, over 15,000 people were experiencing homelessness. This rate has more than doubled over three years.
- The median age at death for women experiencing homelessness in Toronto was 36 years of age in 2024, a decrease from 43 years in 2023.
- Shelters are not the answer to homelessness, but they are an essential part of the housing continuum.
- Shelters are a critical entry point to long-term housing and should be located in neighbourhoods, like any other essential public service.
- Homelessness is not an individual failure but an outcome of policy decisions and systemic barriers.

In supporting these amendments, I respectfully recommend that the City:

- Approve the official plan and zoning amendments to facilitate the build of a new

women's shelter at 3838 Bloor Street.

In closing, we urge you to lead with urgency, compassion, and a commitment to housing as a human right.

Respectfully,

Ryan Friedman.